

ハイスクール

2

ロメロ

戦闘校舎のフェニックス

石踏一榮

ICHIEI ISHIBUMI



ファンタジア文庫

石踏一榮

●いしづみいちえい

1981年生まれ。生まれも育ちも千葉県。第17回ファンタジア長編小説大賞で特別賞を受賞。ゲーム的な要素を作品に取り入れるのが良くも悪くも作風であり、代々の担当編集さんを困らせる。趣味はガンブラとポケモン。部屋に積まれていくプラモデルを見るたびに一人でニヤニヤするのが大好きなダメ人間。BB戦士好き募集中。

石踏一榮
ICHIEI ISHIBUMI

イラスト：みやま零
カバーデザイン：元良志和



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1-2

ハイスクールDxD 2
戦闘校舎のフェニックス



石踏一榮

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「邪念が
入ってるわ。
腰の動きが
いやらしいわよ」

ハイスクール ロメオ

2

戦闘校舎のフェニックス

「...ム...
ム...
ム...」

「解体しちゃいま〜す♪」
「バラバラバラバラバラ！」

双子がチエーンソーを
床に当てながら
同時に直進してくるー！



「フエニツクス

と称えられた

我が一族の業火！

その身で燃やして

燃え尽きるツツー！」



Life 0

My name is Hyoudou Issei. People call me “Ise”. I’m in my 2nd year. Unfortunately I’m not a “normal high school student”. That’s because I’m a devil. No, I’m serious. It’s just that, I was reincarnated into a devil. Well that’s not important now. Just think of me as a high school devil.

I’m confused because of the things that are happening to me right now. For some reason I’m in a chapel. There are familiar faces around me.

“Damn it! Why is Ise getting married!”

“It’s some kind of mistake! This is some kind of conspiracy!”

The bald headed guy, Matsuda, and the guy wearing glasses, Motohama, my two pals are looking at me with envious eyes while sending me out words.

“Ise, the first child has to be a girl!”

“Sob.... You have grown...! You were a worthless child whose only pride was his desire to have sex....”

Both my parents are crying. Man, stop saying such things! I am wearing a white tuxedo. It’s like a wedding scene. Wait, isn’t this a wedding scene. Even the wedding song is playing. Me!? Is it my wedding!? I lost my words because of the sudden surprise. Then who is my bride?

“Ise, you have to be calm.”

I heard a familiar voice coming from my side. When I looked by my side, there was a beauty who had her crimson hair down to her hips. Rias Gremory-buchou was there. She is the one who made me into a devil, and she is a high-class devil who holds a peerage. I am the servant of Rias-buchou and also part of her group. Aaaah, she looks so gorgeous in the wedding dress that I can’t even look at her directly. Sob..... Buchou, you look so beautiful....! And Buchou is besides me! So that means she’s my....

“Rias-sama! You look so beautiful!”

“Aaaah, Rias-onee-sama! Why!? With a guy like that!?”

There are voices around us, screams of shock. So there’s no one to praise me.... So this is Rias-buchou and my wedding! Oh my god. When on earth did we get into this relationship? And we ended up in a situation like this. I don’t know the details, but if I can marry the woman of my dream then there’s nothing else I need.

".... a good, free, and unconstrained will and a firm intention to take unto thyself to wife..."

The geezer priest is apparently saying the wedding vows, but my head is filled with other things. Marriage equals husband and wife. Husband and wife equals family. Family equals children. Children equals making babies. Making babies equals sex. Sex equals the husband and wife's situation. The husband and wife's situation equals first night of marriage..... first night of marriage.... First night of marriage!?

"Come here, Ise."

Buchou is lying on the bed naked in my imagination. This means that I can, right? I mean we are husband and wife and we need to make a family. Children is a must when you start a family. And to make children we need to do a certain thing.... And that certain thing is sex..... I can have sex with Buchou!? When I reached that conclusion, my head was full with excitement and couldn't stop imagining lots of naughty stuff. I see. The reason why I didn't have any luck with these kind of things in the past was because it was for this day, for tonight! Will I be able to finish the task until the end safely!? No if it's about knowledge, then I am an expert! I have been simulating it every day! In other words, I am an ace-pilot in mock battles! I am an elite who only needs the real thing!

"Now you may kiss the bride."

What!? Yes, now I remember! This is the first thing I have to do! The kiss in a chapel! A kiss with Buchou! When I looked to my side, Buchou had her eyes closed and her face was getting closer! Can I!? I can right!? Yes! Yes! Buchou's lips are mine! Her lips looks so soft. The lipstick makes it sparkle and my head feels like it's about to spin.

"You seem like you're having fun, brat."

!! I heard a mysterious voice within my head. It was an intense voice with low volume. I don't recall this voice. But somehow I felt that I knew this person.....

"That's right. I am right next to you."

.....Who is this? When I looked around me, there were no signs of the chapel anymore. Buchou who was next to me was also gone. Everyone including my parents and friends were gone as well! Before that, where am I? I'm losing all my senses. I lost my sense of touch. Obviously, I lost my sense of sight and hearing. It was pitch-black in front of me. There was only darkness. I couldn't hear anything. There were no sound..... What is this? Buchou! Dad! Mum! Matsuda! Motohama! I shouted the names of those I am close with, but there were no replies. What happened to me? Who did that voice belong to?

"It's mine."

Wah! The sound didn't come out from my mouth, but I was really scared within my heart. Obviously. Anyone would be scared if a gigantic monster appears right in front of them. It had big eyes. The color of its eyes was blood red. A jaw which comes up to its ears, where a lot of sharp fangs were growing out. There was a thick horn lining up on its forehead, and the scales

which covered its body were red like magma. It had thick arms and legs like those of a gigantic tree. The claws were very sharp and curvy which made it look terrifying. And on top of that, it seemed really gigantic because of its two pairs of wings which were spread to the sides. In front of me there was.....a gigantic monster.....and out of all the things I knew, the thing which it resembled with was.....a dragon. It seemed like it knew what I was thinking even though I didn't speak it out loud, and it seemed like the dragon's mouth line moved a bit up.

"That's it. That's the right deduction. I have been trying to talk to you for the whole time. But, because you were very weak, my words didn't reach you. Finally. Finally I am able to appear in front of you."

.....What is this guy saying? I don't get it. Appear? He has been trying to talk to me? I don't know. I don't know about it! What? Is he trying to eat me?

"Eat? You? Something which seems to taste awful like you? As if I would. That's not it. I just wanted to introduce myself to my partner who I will be fighting along with."

Partner? Hold on a second. I don't even know what you are talking about! Dragon! Who are you.....

"You know it, don't you? You probably thought about it. Yeah, that's right. I am exactly what you think I am. Let's talk again. Aye, partner."

When I looked at my left arm, it was covered in red scales and it looked very irregular because of those really sharp claws.

Life 1: My job as a devil

Part 1

When I opened my eyes, it was a familiar ceiling. Aaaah, so it was a dream. Apparently I had both the best and the worst dream. It was good in the beginning. My wedding with Buchou, whom I look up to. It was good until then, but after that..... My heart was beating fast. Anyone would if they had the same dream. I was also breathing fast. I just got my upper body upright and wiped the sweat on my forehead with my hand. Wow, So much sweat. I was astonished to see the unexpected amount of sweat. At the same time, I realized that I used my left arm to wipe it. The last scene.....That red dragon.....

It was like a fantasy story so I couldn't believe it. At the end of my dream, my left arm turned into that of a monster's but now there was nothing wrong with it. But I did understand that there was something possessed in this arm. I looked at the clock. It was 4:30am.... It was still a bit early. I took a deep breath and was about to sleep again..... No! I remember now! It's time! I got up out of bed and got ready! When I looked down from the window there was a red haired beauty, Rias Gremory-buchou in a red jersey standing at the gate. She is a senior at my school and the school idol. She is also the president of the occult research club that I am in, and her real identity is a devil. She looked at me after she realized that I was looking at her. Hurry up. She moved her lips like that while smiling.

“I will be there now!”

I changed into the jersey from my pajamas, and left the room to do morning training.

Part 2

“Haaa.....haaaa.....haaaaa.....”

“Hey, don't run miserably. I will add 10 more laps of dashing afterwards.”

I was losing my breath while running in the residential area. Behind me was Buchou, who was on a bicycle firing me up while scolding me without mercy. You are strict like always. About a month ago, I was reincarnated as a devil from a human. I became Buchou, Rias Gremory-sama's servant devil. Devils are summoned by humans, and grant them a wish in exchange for a price. Like that, working has been the main thing in my daily life. Buchou is also no exception. I have been working daily as the servant devil of Buchou, and walking towards my goal one step at a time. My goal? That's obvious!

“I'm going to become a Harem-King.... haaaa.....”

The words slipped while I was running.

“That’s right. For that, you need to do basic training every day. You have to become strong, even if it takes time.”

Yes Buchou. I know that. I’m currently a newborn devil, but if I get active and get promoted, I can receive a peerage. If that happens I can have my own servants. That’s right! I’m going to make lots of girls into my personal servant devils, and I will be able to make my dream come true! For that I need to get stronger, just like Buchou said. Strength is absolute in the world of devils. Simply put, the stronger you are, the easier you rise up. Well, you can rise up with knowledge, trading skills, and other skills but I have no talent in those things at the moment. That’s why I need to increase my stamina. That’s why I am doing training every day. But Buchou is a Spartan-instructor.

“I won’t forgive my servants for being weak.”

Just like that she showed no mercy for my morning training. I am made to run for 20km and after that do dashes for more than 100 laps. I also am made to do various muscles trainings that I lost count of and different types of other trainings. Devils are night beings that can use their powers at night. I thought that it was better to train at night rather than morning, but that was not the case. Training in the morning which we are weak against makes us mentally stronger as well. I had been suffering from muscle stretches every day, but getting used to it was a scary thing and it didn’t hurt like it did in the beginning. Lately I have been able to do them quite easily. It was proof that I have been improving daily. I was in a good state in physical education class. My short sprint record had shortened, and it was not that painful to do a long run as well.

“Haaa.....haaa”

When I reached the park which was the goal, I stopped running. I was sweating all over my body.....

“Nice job. Now let’s do the dashes.”

The devil-buchou’s smile was so dazzling.....

Part 3

“Your ability has a meaning if your basics are high.”

“Yes.....65.”

After I did the morning marathon and the dashes, I started doing push-ups in the park. Buchou was sitting on my back. The feeling of her soft buttocks felt superb, but my arms were getting numb every day and I had no time to enjoy it. No, the feeling of her buttocks is the best!

WHIP

“Ouch!”

I was slapped in the butt and I slipped out a sound..... I'm not a M either....

“You are having dirty thoughts. The movement of your hips is vulgar.”

“.....That's.....68.....because....if I think that you are horse riding me.....69.....it's turning me into a real horse.....70!”

“Talking while doing push-ups. You seem to have grown Ise. Should I add another hundred?”

Buchou said something impossible while smiling. I will die..... I will be in a near death state from morning then....

“Ummm. She should be here soon.”

“Huh? Who's coming?”

When I asked her, I heard a familiar voice.

“Excuse me.”

I looked at the direction from where the voice came from while in the push-up posture.

“Ise-san, Buchou-san! I'm sorry for being late.....Haaah!”

It was the blond haired girl Asia, who tripped over.

Part 4

“Ise-san, here's your green tea.”

“Yeah. Thanks.”

I was having a break and drinking the green tea Asia gave. After that I did muscles training for my stomach and back so my body was hurting all over.

“Asia, why are you here?”

When I asked, the blond beauty's cheeks became red.

“I heard that Ise-san and Buchou-san do training every morning..... So I wanted to be of help to Ise-san as well. Today I was only able to prepare green tea though.”

Asia..... You are such a wonderful girl! I'm deeply moved!

"Sob.....Asia! I'm deeply moved by your kindness! Aaaaah, I never expected that there would be a day when a girl would say that to me!"

I drank the tea in a sip while crying with joy. She is a former nun who has blond hair and green eyes. Former means that she isn't a sister anymore. Right now she is a devil in the Gremory household. Last month she was related to a particular incident and was killed by a fallen-angel. Asia died, but thanks to Buchou, she was reincarnated as a devil and is here right now with us. Also the fallen-angels are evil angels mentioned in the bible and novels. Their trait is their black wings. They are the arch-enemies of devils and are always fighting them. Last month, I was also involved in their fight. That time I realized how weak I was, so I started to train like this to get stronger. I don't want Asia to go through that sadness ever again. Buchou, our master, was thinking about something while drinking green tea.

"What's wrong, Buchou?"

When I asked her, she got surprised and made a cough.

"No, it's nothing. But it's good timing. I decided to do it today, so let's head to Ise's home now."

Huh? Why? My house? Good timing? What are we going to do at my house?

"It's about time that the luggage arrives."

I realized what she meant, 10 minutes from now.

Part 5

"This is.....?"

I'm shocked right now because there is a box right in front of my house.

What is this? It doesn't even have the name of the sender as well. I had a mysterious feeling about this. There isn't a bomb inside it, right?

"Now Ise, carry these to the room." Buchou said it to me because I was making a confused face.

"Huh? Carry? I am to carry this to.....my house!?"

"Yes, This is Asia's belongings. Carrying this is what a would gentleman do, right?"

A.....

"This is Asia's!?"

I was deeply shocked but Buchou said something even more shocking.

“Yes. From today on, Asia will be living in your house.”

Part 6

Family meeting. A meeting that is known worldwide. It is also ranked at the top for discussion. Voices of parents, who holds the authority, have the right to decide the outcome. We, the children, have to choose the right words to make the discussion smooth. But my parents who are supposed to have the authority are down on their knees when in front of Buchou. Buchou's eyes having certain powers are possibly making it that way.

“Oka-sama and otou-sama, because of this situation will you allow Asia Argento to stay here as a home stay?”

Buchou said something impossible to my parents. The two of them whispered to each other's ear while looking at Asia.

.....What the. They also looked at me. My dad coughed once and asked her a question.

“Asia-san, is it?”

“Yes, Ise's otou-sama.”

Asia responded with a nervous face.

“Otou-sama.....ku..... A beautiful foreigner girl is calling me father repeatedly. How should I put it? It rings a bell in my heart, in a good way.”

My dad was getting emotional. Getting called “otou-sama” by two young beautiful girls would obviously make him happy. Even I'm confident that I would fall for it if two beautiful girls called me “onii-sama”

“Otou-san!”

My mum punched my dad. My dad also came back to reality.

“*A,ahem*! Even if you want to home stay, there is a monster with desires to have sex, our stupid son, in this house. It's unfortunate, but isn't it better for you to stay in a girl's house who is about the same age as you? If something happens I would be too ashamed.”

This shitty dad doesn't hold back on his own son. What does he mean a monster who only desires to have sex?.....well he isn't that far off so I won't make any excuses. But just like dad said, if a girl wants to home stay, then it should be in a girl's house. Even my mum is agreeing

about it besides him. If a beautiful blond girl stayed with a monster like me, they wouldn't know what might happen. My parents wanted to say that it would become an international problem. But I won't do anything! I have no trust do I.....? I haven't told them that me and Asia are devils and that Asia was used by a fallen-angel. Even if I told them they wouldn't believe me, and I don't want them to get caught up in it. We left a lot of stuff out when we explained the situation, with made up parts in it. Buchou didn't seem affected that my parents declined, and she was still talking with a smile.

“Then how about if Asia becomes your daughter, then?”

What is that, Buchou....? It sounds very serious.....

“What do you mean?”

“Otouto-sama, Asia believes in Ise very much. Very much. It's the same for me as well. Ise does lack a bit of intelligence, but he is not a fool. He has such a burning soul that he would walk towards any obstacle and would try to overcome it. Both Asia and I are drawn to that part of Ise. Especially Asia. Isn't that right, Asia?”

“Yes! Ise-san saved me by risking his life! He is my life savior. He even helps me a lot at school as well. Even in class he.....”

Then Asia started to explain how I was helping her at school daily. She even told them minor things and over-exaggerated it. Ooooooooooh..... I'm so embarrassed that I want to flee from this place. My parents were like, “Ummm, our Ise did?” and “To be of help to others?”, and they seemed like they were quite proud of it. Then Buchou told them the last conviction.

“How about if this home stay is also about the bride training, then?”

“Bride!?”

What is that!? Dad, mum and I shouted very loud. Asia was like, “?”.

{TEARS.}

Then there were loads of tears flowing out of dad's eyes. He wiped his eyes and said.

“.....Because Ise is like this, I was sure that I would never see my grandchildren. I was always depressed that I had to worry about Ise living by himself even after I get very old.....”

Wha..... Otouto-sama suddenly blasted his thoughts..... I mean why the hell did he make a irresponsible future like that for me. My mum was wiping her tears besides him. Wait, you are crying too!?

“Even I thought that Ise would never get a bride. It's because it's Ise. He's a stupid son. I tried raising him so he wouldn't become a shame in society, but that all turned into a waste and he

became like this. If I could go back to the past, I would convince my younger self to throw away Ise's porno DVDs that he hides inside the plastic model box he stores in his locker. ”

Oh shittttttt! My secret porn location! My mum knew!? My dad holds Asia's hand.

“Asia-san! He is such a worthless child, but can you take care of him?”

“You are wrong..... Ise-san isn't worthless. He's a very amazing person.”

Asia didn't realize what my dad was getting at, and smiled. My mum, who saw that, broke down crying even more. What is this? What TV series is this from?

“Rias-san! We will look after Asia Argento-san in this house!”

Buchou smiled after hearing dad's conclusion.

“Thank you very much, otou-sama. So Ise, take care of Asia. Asia you will be staying with Ise and his family from now on. Get along with Ise's parents.”

“Is it really alright? Won't it.....be a burden...if I stay?”

Buchou told the confused Asia:

“To get used to Japanese culture and lifestyle, it is the best to stay with the people from that country. When I asked you who you wanted to live with the most, you said Ise without a second thought.”

Oh I see, that was the reason. Asia was staying at Rias-buchou's place. She was borrowing one of the rooms in the old school building.

“Yes. I indeed said that, but.....”

“It's alright, Asia-san! Get used to Japan at our house! You might stay here permanently!”

Dad made up his mind to make Asia my wife.

“See? Even otou-sama says this?”

Asia was confused but after she saw that Buchou was smiling, Asia also smiled back.

“Okay, Buchou-san. If there are things I don't understand I will be in your care otou-sama and oka-sama.”

You've been perfectly deceived mum and dad..... Possibly the thing about my “bride” was a perfect blow to them..... Like this it was decided that Asia would be living with us.

“Bride, huh.....?”

I was very anxious when I saw that Buchou had a sad face that time.

Part 7

A few days after Asia began living with us.

“It’s good weather today, isn’t it Ise-san? We are playing softball for physical education today. It’s my first time so I’m excited.”

Asia was happily walking towards school, while I was walking next to her. I never expected to walk to school everyday with a beauty like her. The eyes of the students walking in the same direction as us were intense.

“Why on earth is Asia-san walking from the same direction as Hyoudou?”

“Absurd....what is happening.....?”

“It must be some kind of mistake.....First it was Rias-oneesama, now even Asia-san....”

Just like that there were students screaming at me. Well if people who knew me saw this, this situation was impossible.

I was an unpopular perverted student but now I was getting along with school idols. Also I was walking to school with the new blond student who everyone had been talking about since her arrival. From other people’s view this was an unbelievable situation. There were some students who confessed to Asia because they were like “If Hyoudou can, so can I”, but they were rejected immediately. Because of that, there were those who held a grudge against me. So there were people looking at me with a grudge, right now. It’s not my fault.... Other guys think I am playing around with bishoujo’s body. Though, it’s not as simple as they think. But that’s okay. Fufufufu. This is fun in another way as well. Even if it’s a misunderstanding, they think I’m popular with girls. Oh yeah! Just get jealous of me, boys! I’m still going to rise high! Fuhahaha!

“Was there something that looks funny?”

Asia looked at my face with a worried look. When a bishoujo’s face is right in front of me, it makes me blush..... Looks like I’m still young.

“No, it’s nothing. By the way Asia, Is there any problem at school? Are you getting along with other girls?”

Those were the things I was most worried about. She is a former-nun who just transferred to school. Since she had a lifestyle which was far from ours, she might feel lost in school life. At

times like that I would definitely help, but it was more important for her to be supported by other girls. She gets along with the girls from the occult research club, but I was curious about how she got along with girls from our class. I didn't think she was getting bullied because she was not used to this lifestyle, but..... I couldn't stop worrying about it. Nothing like that happened from my viewpoint, but she could have been bullied when I was not looking. But Asia made a smile from the bottom of her heart which rejected my thoughts.

“Everyone is very kind towards me. They are teaching me a lot of things so I can get used to Japan. I also made lots of friends. I was also invited to go shopping with them.”

That's good to hear. Apparently her relationship with the other classmates was positive. Now one of my worries was gone. We arrived at school then went towards the class while talking. Now with the problem of Asia's school life gone, the remaining problem was....

“Good morning, Asia-chan!”

“Good morning, Asia-san. Your blond hair is shiny as always.”

As soon as we arrived in the class, the bald headed guy Matsuda, and the guy wearing glasses Motohama, approached Asia. These two are my pals. They are famous for being perverted, along with me.

“Good morning Matsuda-san, Motohama-san.”

The two of them got emotional after getting greeted by Asia.

“This is the thing, isn't it, Motohama-kun?”

“That's right, Matsuda-kun. Getting greeted by a bishoujo gives life to us.”

.....Like usual, they feel happiness with minor things. But until recently I was the same as them. Fufufu, I never expected to change after having a lot of encounters with girls lately.

PUNCH!

“Cough!”

When I was acting cool, Motohama punched me in the stomach.

“What was that for baldy!?”

I objected to him but he continued to laugh and kicked me in my leg. It really hurts! What is this idiot doing!?

“Hahaha. Ise-kun, I heard about it.”

“Heard what.”

“Apparently you walk to school with Asia-chan everyday.”

“What about it?”

“That’s weird. Why? Why do you guys come to school from the same direction?”

Hmm. I don’t know where he heard it from, but it looks like he had also heard the rumors. I smiled at them and made a face to make them pissed. Then I said:

“Listen Matsuda, Motohama. Right now I’m in a totally different world from you two. This can’t be helped.”

“What are you getting all proud of!?”

“Th, that’s right Ise. Just because you get along with Asia-chan....”

Then I gave a finishing blow. I also made an expression of victory.

“I live with Asia. Under one roof. Isn’t that right, Asia?”

“Yes. I am being taken care of at Ise-san’s house.”

“!?”

“!?”

The two of them got quiet after Asia replied with a smile. Apparently they didn’t know what to say. Fu. Fuhahaha! Hahahaha! I won! I won!

“It’s a lie!”

Matsuda denied it strongly. He was even crying. It was tears of jealousy. Fuhahaha! Cry! Scream! And die!

“Im....impossible.....Ise living.....under one roof....with a blond bishoujo.....? That can’t be..... It denies every logic of this world.....”

Motohama fixed the position of his glasses with his shaking hands. He was also trembling even though he was trying to act calm.

“Do you even get woken up by Asia-chan!?”

Matsuda’s question. How miserable.

“Asia, you even woke me up today as well, right?”

“Because Ise-san is such a sleepy head. Fuhuhu.”

Oh. Matsuda dropped to the ground.

“Does she even refill the plates for you?”

Now it's Motohama's question.

“Mum said that you are a kind and helpful girl, Asia.”

“Oh my.....you are making me blush.”

Asia blushed while putting her hand on her cheek. I looked at her calmly, but with a manly face. Looking at us, Motohama was glaring behind his glasses, it looked like his eyes were about to bleed. Oh my, getting jealousy from a friend sure is scary. Man, life sure can be turned upside down with one change. Just being friendly with one bishoujo is enough for guys to get a lively future. Yes, even though all the girls ignore me, I only need Asia as my ally. Wait, that's not good. My aim is to get a peerage and become a great devil, and then make lots of bishoujos into my servants. For that I have to be popular with girls, right? But at this rate I won't be able to.....

“You!! You actually know lots of cute girls, don't you!? Rias-senpai! Akeno-senpai! The “Top 2 Onee-samas” of our school! Then our school's small idol, Toujo Koneko-chan! Then the blond beauty that just transferred, Asia-chan! This is wrong! It's so unfair that I'm about to break!”

Matsuda held his head down and started shouting while crying. Cry as much as you want my friend. Just like he said, I'm getting along with bishoujos lately. Especially Asia, whom I walk to school with. Rias-senpai and Akeno-senpai seem to take care of me as well..... Yeah he's right. I'm in the winners' group now. Definitely a winner. This is possibly the best point of my life. I should experience it and remember it so that I don't regret it afterwards. While I was thinking about it, Motohama fixed his glasses calmly.

“Ise, I don't think introducing a single girl to us will be a bad thing. No, I mean please introduce us to someone. I beg you.”

Motohama said it while putting his face close to mine. He had a low but serious voice. But introducing..... The only bishoujo I knew were the ones he just mentioned. In other words I didn't have any sort of connection with other girls. The girls I got along with were all devils.... Well even though they were devils, they were all cute so it was all alright. Huh? Hmmm, oh yeah. Well there is one person that I know of. I took my mobile phone out and checked for the name. Yup, I have it. This will be okay, then.

“Just wait a little.”

I made my two pals and Asia wait here, and then I went to the corner of the room. I called the person to get a confirmation. We talked for few minutes and that person said it was okay. That's good.

“Well I found one person that's okay with meeting you guys. That person will also bring friends as well. This is the number of the person I just talked about. Contact that person via mail first. That way you guys will feel happy.”

“Thank you!”

Matsuda who was down on the floor until a moment ago grabbed the phone in my hand. Hey hey, that was a quick change! Until a second ago he was crying.....this guy truly is..... The two of them copied the number into their phones.

“Thank you so much, Ise-sama! I will never forget this debt!”

“Yeah! Let's do a triple date next time! Just wait! We will also gets girlfriends instantly!”

The two of them were giving a good smile. They were experiencing happiness now, or more like their minds had went off to somewhere else.

“So what kind of person is she?”

Matsuda asked about the appearance of the person I just introduced. I answered while scratching my cheek.

“Ummm, yeah. A “maiden”, I guess. That, I'm sure of.”

“Maiden.....! Beautiful....! That is just perfect Ise-kun!”

“Man, we just can't thank you enough Ise-sensei.”

These guys are just pathetic. They keep changing their attitudes. No. If I hadn't met with Buchou and Asia, then I would have been the same. I'm sorry for having all the fun, guys. Matsuda asked me with a smiley face:

“Oh Ise-kun. By the way, why is “Mil-tun” called Mill-tun?”

I would like for you guys to ask him yourself. Even I don't know the reason.

Part 8

That night.

I was pedaling my bike in the residential area.

“Oryaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

I pedaled my bike with all my strength. When we reached the designated area, Asia who was sitting behind me put the leaflet into the mail box.

“It’s done.”

“Okay.”

I started pedaling my bike again after I confirmed that Asia was sitting behind me. The leaflet we'd just put in is used to summon us devils. Originally, you actually need to draw a magic circle to summon a devil, but in this century there aren't that many humans willing to draw a magic circle to summon devils. More like there aren't that many humans who believe in devils. I also didn't until recently. So the devil society who was in a tight situation created a leaflet with a magic circle to summon us. Each devil has its own custom magic circle stamped on the leaflet, and just like ordinary advertisements they put a quote to get human attention. This leaflet is nothing to those that are satisfied with their lifestyles, but to those that are craving for something, it has magic cast on it so they would want to use it. We appear in front of humans who become our contractors via the magic circle. We grant their wishes in exchange for a price. That's how it works. So this is the method used to summon devils now. So it is the first job of those who had just been turned into a servant devil to hand out leaflets. So it became a customary practice to hand this out. We use a devil's portable device to find humans with a lot of greed, and put the leaflet into their mail then move onto the next location and repeating this is the devil's job. Well I already finished the job of handing out leaflets already. So why am I still doing it?

“.....Ise-san, is it really alright? To help me handing out leaflets.....”

“Yeah, it's not a problem.”

Yes, I was helping Asia out in handing the leaflets. So like this, I continued pedaling the bicycle for two months.

“Asia, you don't know how to get on a bike right? Then someone has to ride the bike for you.”

“Uu, I'm sorry. I never had a chance to get on a bike.....But I could do it by walking.....”

“I can't let you do that. I'm worried about you, Asia.”

That was the truth. It was not because she couldn't get on a bike that I was worried about. I couldn't let her walk around in an unfamiliar soil. She had just come to Japan from Northern Europe last month. She didn't know that much about Japanese culture. When she turned into a devil she gained the ability to understand Japanese, but in terms of adjusting to the Japanese lifestyle it was a totally different story. But Asia is kind to anyone and doesn't know how the world goes around. You won't know what kind of bad things will fall down onto her. When I

thought about it, it made me very worried. So I said to Buchou that, “I will help Asia with handing out the leaflets!”. Buchou accepted my request immediately. Thank you very much Buchou! Just like that I started supporting Asia. So I went around the residential area at night on my bicycle.

“Look Asia. That’s a shrine. We’re devils so we can’t enter it.”

I pointed at a certain shrine when we went passed it.

“Yes. Devils aren’t allowed to go to places where spirits gather and the local god lives, right? It’s hard for me to understand Japanese gods because I’m a Christian.....”

Buchou told me that it would be hard for Asia to understand Japanese culture because she was raised by being taught that there is only one God. So I started to teach Asia the things about the places we live in and so on while we hand out the leaflets.

“Oh look there. It’s closed now but that bakery shop sells good bread. You want to go buy it next time?”

“Yes! Japanese breads are sweet so I love it!”

Even if it was a normal conversation it was fun. Date at night. That’s the best! I always wanted to ride a bicycle with a girl sitting behind me.

“Ise-san, have you watched the film “Roman Holiday”?”

Asia asked me. Roman Holiday? Oh yeah it’s a film.

“It’s an old film right? Sorry I haven’t watched it.”

“Is that so.....?”

Asia sounded sad when I answered her.

“But what about that film?”

“....It was my admiration. It was just like this..... Though it was a bike. But even so I.....Fufufu.”

Huh? She sounded happy now. Even her arms across my hips were stronger. I don’t know what it is, but oh well. If Asia is happy then it’s okay. Tonight’s wind also feels good.

Part 9

“We are back!”

Asia and I had finished handing out the leaflets and returned to the club room, the old unused school building located behind the school. One of the rooms on the third floor is the room for the occult research club and also the gathering place for the Gremory household members.

“Oh my. Good work. I will make green tea now.”

The first one to welcome us back was the vice-president of our club Himejima Akeno-san, who is also the staff officer of Rias-buchou. She is my sempai, who is from 3rd year and always smiling. She has long silky black hair and is what you call a Japanese beauty. She is also a rare person to have a pony-tail in the current era. Along with Buchou she is called one of the “Two Big Onee-samas” of our school. They are both popular among both boys and girls and have the popularity of an idol.

“Hey. How was the date at night?”

The guy who was sending out a smile at me is Kiba Yuuto, the good looking guy. He is the prince of our school who has captured the hearts of most of the girls. He is my enemy since I hate good looking guys.

“It’s obviously the best.”

I put my thumbs up towards Kiba.

“.....Illicit sexual relationship late at night.”

The one who just said a harsh thing at me is Toujou Koneko-chan, the 1st year girl. At first glance she only looks like a primary student but because she’s a loli girl, she is popular in our academy for being our school mascot. Asia and I walked towards Buchou, who was sitting on the sofa. Our “King”, Rias-buchou. Even tonight your crimson hair is beautiful like always.

“Buchou, we have returned.”

I reported to her, but Buchou was looking in a certain direction dazed. Is she thinking about something? She even made a deep sigh. Asia who was next to me also looked in the direction Buchou was looking at.

“Buchou, we have returned!”

This time I raised my voice. Buchou heard me and came back to reality.

“I...I’m sorry. I was dazed for a second. Good work Ise, Asia.”

Lately I think that Buchou is thinking about something often. When she orders us to do something she does it with elegance like usual, but other than that her mind goes to somewhere else. The number of times she sighs increased as well. She possibly has some things she has to deal with that we won’t be able to do. Well, she is a high-class devil after all. So these are the

members of the occult research club and also the people of the Gremory household. Other than me, everyone else is super popular at school. Well I am famous for being a perv. Hahaha, I feel so awkward hanging around with these guys that I should apologize to everyone. After Buchou confirmed that everyone was here, she said:

“Now, let’s have Asia make her debut as a devil.”

“Yes, Buchou.”

Akeno-san put her hand on Asia’s forehead after Buchou asked her to. A faint light appeared from her finger tips, and it seemed like she was reading something.

“We had the incident with Ise before, so we need to check.”

I felt down after hearing Buchou’s worry. It’s just like she said. My debut as a devil was awful. To use the magic circle, you need a little bit of magical powers. But I didn’t even have that little bit of magic power at all. Thanks to that, I couldn’t transport via the magic circle and I had to use a bicycle to go to the client. Apparently I am the first one to do it. Even now I have to visit the clients by bicycle. Man, I can’t stand this....

“Buchou, it’s okay. There’s no problem at all. More like she has the most magical powers after Buchou and me. Her magical power potential is very good.”

Buchou smiled at Akeno-san’s report.

“That’s good news. She can use her power as a “Bishop” to the fullest.”

The “Bishop” Buchou just mentioned is the role of Asia as a devil. The current devils gave rules based on the human’s chess to their servants. The devil whom is a master is a “King” and the servants are either “Queen”, “Rook”, “Bishop”, “Knight”, or “Pawn”. It’s the current system used by the devils with their servants being called “Evil-piece”. It’s a system that was created to fight against the other factions with small numbers of devils. This was made after the devils had a significant number of casualties against the fallen-angels and God during the Great War. That’s what Buchou told me. Each chess piece has its own traits that boost up the servant devils. Of course as Buchou is our master, we also have certain roles. Akeno-san is a “Queen”, Kiba is a “Knight”, Koneko-chan is a “Rook”, Asia is a “Bishop” and I am a “Pawn”! At first glance “Pawn” seems weak, but depending on the way you use it, it could even take down a “King”! That’s what Buchou said to me! I have to believe it since I am aiming to become the “Ultimate Pawn”. Going back to the topic, since Asia had a lot of magical power she could use the magic circle to transport. Yes, Asia started from a good start. I am satisfied with that. Then Asia will also get along with the client.... Then I felt uneasy.....Asia is kind to anyone and she doesn’t know how the world goes around. What if someone with lots of greed summons Asia.....?

Case 1

“Oh my! What a cute devil-san! Oh yeah! Can you show me your underwear!? Can you also show me your breasts!?”

.....That's bad.....

Case 2

“Bishoujo devil-san! Let me grope your breasts as much as I want with the price of my life!”

.....Asia's?

Case 3

“I will give you my life, so let me have sex with you till the night ends!”

.....

“Ise, are you crying?”

Buchou looked at my face with a worried look.

“Buchou no! It's a no!”

I shook my head while tears were flowing out of my eyes. It's a no. That's right, no! It's Asia!? Asia won't say no to the someone's request! Asia who is serious with work would even sacrifice her own body to accomplish it!

“Buchou! I feel uneasy if Asia goes alone! I can't stand it if some weirdo asks some sick wish to Asia!”

Buchou seemed a bit troubled after I said it strongly to her while crying.

“Ise. We the devil of Gremory household don't take those kind of wishes. There are humans who request those kinds of wishes, so there are devils who take those clients as their jobs. The jobs we take are safe. Even devils have areas which they are professional at.”

“Are you sure, Buchou? It's not a lie, right? But still I feel uneasy!”

Buchou sighed after seeing me so worried about it.

“Alright. For a little while, I'll put you with Asia to support her. Are you satisfied with that?”

“Thank you very much! Asia! Let me handle the pervs! Asia, you can just make the contract normally!”

“Ye, Yes.”

I made a sigh of relief after grabbing her hands. Though Asia herself was worried that she was causing trouble for me, but that was okay. I needed to protect Asia. I even made a promise with Buchou, and I, myself wanted to protect Asia. It might be a bit overboard, but I will look after her until she says that she can do it by herself. You have to do those kinds of things until they get tired of it. I will protect Asia even if it makes her hate me.

“So Asia, if you get a request, transport via the magic circle and take Ise with you.”

“Yes. I understand, Buchou.”

After she confirmed it, the big magic circle on the floor glowed. Akeno-san who is in charge of the magic circle started to read the devil’s letters that appeared in a section of the magic circle.

“Ara-ara, there is a client who wants to summon us and it’s a client that wants to make a wish even Asia-chan can handle.”

Buchou smiled at Akeno-san’s report.

“That’s very convenient. Asia can supply the magic power needed for Ise as well. Let’s do it.”

I was the one who was supposed to help her, but it looked like I needed the help..... That’s okay. I just need to make sure that Asia can do her first job safely.

“Let’s go Asia!”

“Yes Ise-san!”

Asia and I went inside the middle of the circle after getting our spirits up.

Part 10

I returned home late at night.

Asia finished her first job safely. Unlike my debut, she accomplished it smoothly.

“I’m sorry. I will take the bath first then.”

Asia went to the bathroom after saying that. She couldn’t stop smiling because she had accomplished her first job. I also went to my room to rest a little. Just like every night, my body was so tired. After Asia had finished her job, we went back to the club room and reported to Buchou. With that we had finished for the night. I was also worried about Buchou who had a sad face..... I was thinking about the feelings I had for Buchou but it was my turn to take a shower next. Using the same bath a girl was in..... I know I shouldn’t think about those kinds of things, but I’m in that age when I have to. So I’m getting quite excited about it. No! No! I shook my

head very hard and tried to get rid of the ill thoughts. I need to protect Asia! If I get excited about Asia, then that makes me the worst person! Perv! What a perv am I! Shit! I wish I had the mind of a monk just for now! Yes! To get rid of my ill thoughts I will sit like how monks do! I sat on the floor and closed my eyes to concentrate. I'm not a perv. I'm not a pervert. I'm a being that protects Asia. Even if I live with her I can't think about naughty stuff. Namu-namu. Ouch! Then I got a headache! Oh yeah! Why am I praying!? I'm a devil! I will take damage if I pray! I almost terminated my own self! Damn it! What am I doing!? Wait, what am I doing in my own room.....?

FLASH

Then the floor on my room glowed. The floor started to light up and a familiar symbol appeared on it. This is the mark of our group! The Gremory household's magic circle. Who is it? I mean, why my room? Is someone trying to transport to my room!? The magic circle made a big glow that lit up the whole room, and a person appeared from it. It was the silhouette of a girl. A girl with crimson hair.

“Buchou.....?”

The person that appeared from the magic circle was none other than Rias-buchou herself. But why in my room? She seemed to have the face of those cornered. The same expression she had back in the club room. She came towards me after seeing me. Then she said a shocking thing to me.

“Make love to me.”

.....Excuse me? Because of the shocking words that she said, my mind went blank. What did she say just now? Did I go deaf? Buchou said another incredible thing after I made a confused look:

“I want you to take my virginity. Right now.”

Buchou's Japanese was stimulating as always.

Life 2: I challenge you to a fight

Part 1

“Hurry. Go to the bed. I will get ready for it now.”

Buchou hassles me while taking her uniform off! Ho- hold on! What is this!? What’s happening!? My mind can’t catch up to Buchou’s actions!

STRIP

She took her skirt off and her underwear became visible! Guha!! Her pure white panties are so bright! Her beautiful long legs are excellent! She still has thighs that you want to touch a lot! She then reached for her bra!

“Bu...Buchou! This is.....!?”

I was confused. Obviously! Buchou suddenly appears and says “Let’s have sex.”, and she starts taking her clothes off! Even a horny student like me will get confused!

She finally took her bra off! Her breasts which were supported by the bra are visible! I can’t take my eyes off her white and huge breasts! Buchou who only had her panties on took a huge breath and walked towards me.

“Ise, aren’t I good enough?”

“No! Absolutely not!”

“I thought about all sorts of things, but this is the only method left.”

Method for what!? I can’t see where this is leading to!?

“If there is evidence, then they can’t complain about it. The only person close to me who is able to do it with me is you.”

Me!? I don’t know what’s going on, but apparently I was chosen to be her first time!? I am honored! That’s what I would like to say but I don’t have the confidence to!

“.....Yuuto won’t do. He is a pure knight. He would decline it for sure. That’s why Ise is the only one possible.”

I won over Kiba!? Hahahaha! I don’t know what’s going on, but for that part I can be proud! I won against you Casanova!

“.....There are things you still lack in, but you seem to have the potential.”

Buchou's fingers touched my cheek. My heart was beating. I felt something mysterious running through my body!

"You are the only one who would do it as soon as I ask and will go till the end."

"Bu...Buchou...."

Buchou approached me and pushed me down onto the bed. Buchou horse rode me. The place where her butt and thigh met me was my important part! Her crimson hair fell on my body. The smell of her crimson hair excited me.

PATCHIN

The sound of the bra's hook. The second coming of Buchou's breasts! Her beautiful pink nipples were already standing. Her nipples moved with her slight movements! This had too many critical effects on me! This was my second time seeing breasts in a row! I never would have thought that I would see it again on this bed!

"This is your first time right, Ise? Or do you already have experience?"

"Ye...yes, it's my first time!"

"Is that so. It's my first time as well, so let's do it till the end even if both of us have no experience. It's alright. It's very simple. You just have to put it inside here."

Buchou points at her important part with her fingers. It has so much impact on me that my brain is about to burst! Then Buchou takes my right hand and.....!

SQUEESH



My right hand which was grasped by Buchou was put on top of her breast! I could feel a really soft sensation on all five fingers! It's a guy's thing to concentrate their thoughts and sensations on their right hand at times like this!

FLOOD

I knew that there was an insane amount of blood dripping from my nose. The sensation of the breast that I dreamed so much about! Crap...I'm about to lose consciousness! But if I had to describe this sensation, it's like a cream custard that won't crumble! Or the best quality marshmallow! No you still can't describe this sensation with things like those! No you can'ttttt!!

“Do you realize?”

Buchou said that to me with a charming voice.

“I'm also tense. You can tell by my heart beat, right?”

Now that she talked about it, I could feel her heart beating fast beyond her breast. If I looked carefully, her pure white skin was getting red..... So Buchou was also nervous? So Buchou who always acts with elegance was nervous for the first time as well.... Then Buchou started to strip my clothes off! Uuuuuaaaaaaah!! I'm getting stripped naked by a girl!

“Bu..But! I don't actually have the confidence!”

I accidentally made a whiny voice because I was so nervous! Well obviously! That's because I'm a super virgin!! Buchou got her face close to mine and said:

“Are you trying to embarrass me?”

KABOOM!

With that comment, my brain blew up. I knew it was the sound indicating I couldn't hold my instinct anymore. I grabbed Buchou by her shoulders and put her down against my bed! On my bed, below me, there is a fully naked girl. She's saying that I can fuck her! Make your determination Hyoudou Issei! I don't know why but my time has come! I have to do it! Wait, is this really alright!? But I can't control myself if the woman I admire says things like this to me! I gulped down my spit and took a deep breath. Then I put my body against Buchou's.....

FLASH

Then the floor of my room flashed again. Wha...what is it!? Buchou made a sigh after seeing that.

“.....Looks like I was a bit late....”

Buchou stared at the magic circle with fierce eyes. The symbol on the magic circle was.....the symbol of Gremory household? Who is it? Kiba? Akeno-san? Koneko-chan? Wait even if it is

one of them, getting caught in this situation is bad!! But my prediction was wrong, and the person who appeared was a silver haired woman. Her clothes looked like those of a maid. Is she a maid? She opened her mouth after confirming me and Buchou's presence.

"Are you trying to break the agreement by doing something like this?"

The maid said it as if she found it childish. Buchou's eyes changed after hearing that.

"If I don't do things like this, both otou-sama and onii-sama won't listen to me."

"Both Sirzechs-sama and the master will become sad after they find out that you tried to give your purity to some lowly person like this."

Master? Sirzechs-sama? Who is it? From Buchou's words it might be her father and brother. I never knew Buchou had a brother. But lowly.....she's talking about me right? I felt a bit shocked as someone I just met called me that. Buchou seemed like she was in a bad mood after hearing that.

"My purity is mine only. What's wrong with giving it to someone whom I acknowledged? And don't call my cute servant lowly. Even if it's you, I won't forgive you, Grayfia."

Bu..Buchouuuuu!! I'm so moved because you became mad for me! The woman called Grayfia started picking up Buchou's bra.

"Anyway. You are the next heir of the Gremory household so please don't show your skin to a man, even more so if you are in the middle of this situation."

She then put the bra on Buchou's body. The woman looked at me and bowed her head down.

"How do you do? I'm a person that serves the Gremory household. My name is Grayfia. I will be your acquaintance from now on."

I received a polite introduction from her. I felt a bit awkward because I was called a lowly person when I first saw her. But if I looked carefully she was quite beautiful. In human age she looked around her early 20's. She seemed a bit cold but her silver hair which was shining looked beautiful. She had her hair split into three strings which were then knotted with each other. Grayfia-san, huh? Older woman are also quite.....

SNITCH

Buchou pinched me because I was gazing at Grayfia-san. Buchou it hurts.

"Grayfia, did you come here of your own accord? Or did you come here because the household sent you.....? Or is it onii-sama?"

"All of them."

Grayfia-san made an answer immediately. After hearing that, Buchou made a sigh which seemed like she gave up.

“Is that so? You, who is brother’s “Queen” came to the human world personally. So it can only be that. I understand.”

Buchou picked her clothes up. She put her clothes back on. Her beautiful naked body was getting covered.

“I’m sorry, Ise. Let’s make it so that the thing from earlier never happened. I wasn’t thinking straight either. Let’s forget about today’s incident.”

.....Ah. Is it over...? Well I didn’t know what was going on either, so.... But I know that I will regret it afterwards.

“Ise? Wait, is this person...?”

Huh? Grayfia-san was looking at me with a shocked expression. I never expected a cool woman like her to be this shocked.

“Yes, Hyoudou Issei. My “Pawn”, and the holder of the “Boosted Gear”.”

“.....”Boosted Gear”, the one possessed by the emperor of dragons.....”

What is it? Grayfia-san looked as if she was looking at something extraordinary.

“Grayfia, let’s go back to my room. I will listen to what you have to say over there. Akeno can also attend, right?”

“The “Lightning Priestess”? I don’t mind. It’s a must for high-class devils to have their “Queen” by their side all the time.”

“Okay. Ise.”

Buchou called me. She walked towards me and then she....

KISS

I felt her lips on my cheeks.....Wow. Uooooooooooooooooo! I got kissed on the cheek!!

“Please forgive me for today with this kiss. I troubled you a lot. Let’s meet again in the club room tomorrow.”

She gave me a farewell and disappeared in the magic circle along with Grayfia-san.....I was the only one left in the room now. I stood there dazzled while touching the cheek where I was kissed.

“Ise-san! I finished using the shower!”

I heard Asia’s voice soon after that.

Part 2

The next morning.

Asia and I were walking towards school. I rubbed my eyes because I couldn’t get a single bit of sleep. Damn it. Damn itttttt!! Last night I regretted it! I regretted so much!! I was suffering in bed because I was too excited! The feeling of the breast in my hand, and the image of Buchou’s naked body in my eyes had a lot of impact to me! So I got up at night and started to masturbate! For the whole night! I had to pleasure myself because I had so much hornyness within my body! That’s why I’m flat out tired from the morning!

“Are you okay?”

Asia said that to me with a worried voice. I feel like I know how dirty I am when I get stared at by pure eyes like Asia’s! I’m sorry Asia. I was doing something you shouldn’t know about when you were away. I mean I can’t tell her that Buchou wanted to have sex with me last night.

“You didn’t do the morning training today, so I thought your body was hurt.”

Asia seemed like she was very worried. I’m very sorry. The morning training was canceled today. I received a call early this morning from Buchou. She said “Can we cancel it today” and it was canceled just like that. Well I couldn’t do training with Buchou in this state..... I walked towards the school while my legs were moving very slowly. When I was heading for the classroom.....

“Iseeeeeee!!”

Matsuda ran towards me with an extremely pissed face. Oh! Is he pissed about that!?

“Dieeeeeee!!”

Motohama ran towards me from the opposite direction. Both of them were trying to get ready to do a lariat on me! Shit I have nowhere to run since we are in the corridor!

BANG!

Ugaaah! Both of their lariats hit my neck. It hurts assholes! I coughed while touching my neck.

“Don’t fuck with me!!”

Matsuda shouted at me.

“Ise! You bastard!”

Motohama grabbed me by my collar and glared at me with the eyes of a murderer.

“Seriously, what is it?”

I acted like I didn’t know what they were on about, but it didn’t stop them being pissed at me.

“Don’t fuck around! Fuck! What the heck was that!? He looked like those guys from a martial arts manga! And why was he wearing gothic lolita clothes!? Is that a new weapon!?”

Matsuda complained to me. Looks like the two of them met him yesterday. Looks like the impact of “Mil-tan” was too much for them. Mil-tan is a regular customer of mine, and is a person who has made a contract with me. He is a girl born from a man that has the body of the world’s strongest person, and he looks up to mahou-shoujos. His charming point is his gothic Lolita outfit and the cat ears he wears. You may think this information doesn’t make any sense, but I can’t help it if this is the truth. He has the body of a man, but the heart of a maiden! That’s the only explanation I have.

“Not only that! He also brought some friends! He made a gathering of some sorts! There were dozens of those who looked like Mil-tan! I was so scared! I thought I was going to get killed!”

Holy shit. There were more of them....? Just thinking about it gives me shivers and nightmares. Where do “Mil-tans” get produced from? Yes, I definitely do not want to meet with them....

“They were going on about the world of magic!? What the fuck is the “world of magic Serabenia”!? I don’t know any shit like that!!”

Matsuda continued to complain to me while shaking my body violently.

“In my case, they were telling me about how to defeat the “Dark creatures” if I ever encounter one.... Apparently you can kill them by using the salt from the sea of the dead and a flower that only appears at night called “Moon twilight flower” so you can mix the two together to make a special item by burning it then making it into powder..... No matter how you think about it, a punch from Mil-tan would be enough to kill any living thing in this world....”

Motohama said it to me while holding his head down. I....is that so. Looks like these two went through hell.

“Congratulations. Now you can beat the “Dark creatures” whenever you encounter one.”

After I said that, Matsuda and Motohama gave me a double brain buster.

Part 3

“Buchou’s problems? Maybe it has something to do with the Gremory household.”

Kiba told me that while we were walking towards the old school building. I met with Kiba while I was on my way to the club room along with Asia. So I asked Kiba about how Buchou was acting strange lately. Kiba also didn't know the reason why.

“Akeno-san would know, right?”

Kiba nodded at my question.

“Akeno-san is Buchou's most trusted servant, so she obviously would know.”

I knew that asking about Buchou's problems would be rude, but I was involved in it last night. But I didn't feel like talking about last night with anyone. I mean, it would have caused an uproar if I did. So I will let it be. If there were things I could help her with, then I would. When we arrived in front of the door, Kiba noticed something.

“.....For me to realize this presence, only when I came here.....”

Kiba made a serious face by having sharp eyes. Huh? What is it? I opened the door without any concerns. Inside the room were Buchou, Akeno-san, Koneko-chan, and the silver haired maid Grayfia-san! She looked cool just like yesterday. Buchou had a very disturbed face. Akeno-san was smiling like usual but you could tell that she was serious. Koneko-chan was sitting in a chair in the corner quietly. She seemed like she didn't want to get involved with the others. The room was dead silent, no one spoke a single word. Kiba quietly said “This is bad”, behind me. The three of us went inside the room but it wasn't the type of atmosphere where we could talk to them. That's how tense this room was. Asia also felt uneasy so she held onto my shirt with a worried face. I patted her head to comfort her. Buchou spoke after looking at everyone.

“Looks like everyone is here. Before we start the club, there's something I need to tell all of you.”

“Ojou-sama, do you want me to explain the situation?”

Buchou rejected Grayfia-san's offer with her hand.

“The truth is....”

At the exact same moment Buchou spoke, the magic circle on the floor glowed. Huh....? Transportation? But all of the people from Gremory's are here. So is it a devil who serves the Gremory just like Grayfia-san? After this I realized that my guess was way off of the correct answer, and I realized that I lacked knowledge as a devil. The symbol of the Gremory changed into another pattern on the magic circle. Huh!? What is this!? Wasn't this the Gremory's magic circle?

“....Phenex”

That's what Kiba, who was close to me, said. Phenex? Then it isn't a Gremory then! The light shined through the room and a person appeared from the magic circle.

SPARK

There were flames coming from the magic circle which ignited throughout the whole room. Hot! Sparks burnt my skin. There was the silhouette of a man behind the flames. When he spread his arm across to the side, the flames disappeared.

"Fuu. I haven't come to the human world for a while."

The guy that appeared was a man in a red suit. He wore his suit casually so he didn't have a tie and his shirt was opened till his chest. He looked like he was in his early 20's. He was handsome but he seemed more of the bad boy type. He had his hands inside his pockets. He looked like a gigolo. Or was he a gigolo-devil? His good looking face kind of pissed me off. If Kiba was the gentle type, then this guy was the wild type. The guy looked around the room, and then smirked after finding Buchou.

"My lovely Rias. I came to take you."

.....My lovely Rias....? What kind of relationship does this guy have with Buchou? Buchou looked at him with her eyes half closed. She didn't seem like she was welcoming this guy. But the guy didn't seem to care and approached Buchou.

"Then Rias. Let's go and take a look at the ceremony hall. The date of the ceremony is decided so we need to check it before then."

What a frivolous guy..... From which household is this devil from? Kiba said Phenex earlier..... The guy grabbed Buchou's arm. What a rude guy!

".....Let go of me, Raiser."

Buchou shook the guy's hand off and said it with a deep and serious voice. Wow. She sounds really scary..... She's really pissed off! The guy called Raiser was smirking and didn't seem to care about the fact that Buchou shook his hand off. Man, his slight movement is ticking me off. I'm getting pissed. Then I spoke.

"Oi, you. You are being rude to Buchou. Do you think that's acceptable?"

I said it clearly to him. When the guy looked at me, I could tell he was looking at me as if he was looking at some trash. Man, this guy is pissing me off even more!

"Huh? Who are you?"

He said it with a displeased voice. It was totally different from the sweet voice he had towards Buchou. He was definitely looking down on me. I could feel his hatred towards me. But I will say what I have to!

“I am the servant devil of Rias Gremory-sama! I’m the “Pawn”, Hyoudou Issei.”

I said it to him! I even told him my name! How’s that gigolo-devil!

“Hmmm. Ah, okay.”

SLIP

I slipped after he made a reaction showing he didn’t care much about it. Gu.....I felt a bit hurt by this reaction. So you don’t care about me. Is that right?

“I mean, who the heck are you?”

The guy seemed a bit surprised by my question.

“.....Ara? Rias, you haven’t mentioned me to your servants? I mean, are there guys who don’t know me? A reincarnated devil? Even so.”

“I didn’t tell them because there was no need.”

“Ararara. Harsh like always.Hahaha.....”

The guy started laughing. Then Grayfia-san came in.

“Hyoudou Issei-sama.”

“Ye...yes.”

“This person is Raizer Phenex-sama. He’s a pure-blood high-class devil, and the third son of the Phenex Household.”

Grayfia-san explained to me about this guy. Ummmm, so he’s a high-class devil from the Phenex household. So he holds a peerage then. Isn’t Pheonix a fire bird or an immortal bird that appears in books and is called a legendary creature.....? So there are things similar to it among the devils.

So why is a guy like that related to Buchou? A friend? Is he some childhood friend? But soon I found out the true reason which far surpassed my prediction.

“And he is the husband of the next heir of the House of Gremory.”

.....Hm? Hu....husband....? The next heir.....she’s talking about Buchou right....?

“He is engaged to Rias ojou-sama.”

..... Huh? En.....engagedddddddd!!?

“Whaaaaaaaaaaaaaat!!”

I screamed because of the extreme truth. This guy was Rias buchou’s fiancé.

Part 4

“The tea made by Rias’s “Queen” is superb.”

“Thank you very much.”

The guy who praised Akeno-san’s tea, Raiser. Akeno-san was smiling like usual, but she didn’t say the usual “araara” and “ufufufu”. I felt a bit scared..... Buchou was sitting on the sofa. Raiser sat next to her carelessly and was holding her shoulder. Buchou kept on shaking his hands off, but the bastard kept on touching her hair, hands and shoulders. Man. That guy is way too close to her! We, the low-class devils, sat away from the two high-class devils and could only look at them. Ku....just looking at him pisses me off! He keeps on touching her body! If he starts touching her legs, I’m seriously going to jump at him! Even I didn’t touch her thighs yet! Wait, if I think about it I already know the sensation of Buchou’s breasts. Does that mean I am amazing since I know the sensation of those breasts even before the fiancé? Fufufu, yeah. That’s it! I already saw her naked body twice. Fufufu, it’s my win!? Nuhahaha!!

“Ummm, Ise-san. Did something good happen?”

Asia, who was next to me, asked with a worried face. Huh!? I made a victory declaration in my mind against Raiser.

“.....Indecent thinking is prohibited.”

Koneko-chan gave me harsh words again. Nnnnn, does she have some power which allows her to read my mind?

“Ise-kun. In any case, you should wipe your drool.”

Kiba gave me a handkerchief with a refreshing smile.

“It’s none of your business!”

I tried to wipe my drool with my uniform, but Asia wiped it for me with her handkerchief.

“It’s almost time to eat snacks, so you drooled thinking about it, correct?”

Uuu.... My heart hurt because she said it with a smile. This girl probably doesn't know that I was thinking about naughty stuff.

“Thank you, Asia.”

I'm sorry Asia. Even though I thanked her, I also apologized to her in my heart. Then at that time.....

“Stop it already!”

Buchou's angered voice echoed through the room. When I looked, Buchou got up from the sofa glaring sharply at Raiser. Raiser on the other hand was smirking like usual.

“Raiser! I told you before! I will not marry you!”

“Yeah, I heard that before. But Rias, that won't do, you know? I think your house is in a rush to evade the crisis.”

“That's none of your concern! If I'm the next heir for the House of Gremory, then I will choose who will become my husband! Also it was a promise that I will be free until I graduate from university!”

“That's right. You will be free. You can go to university and you can do whatever you like with your servants. But your Otou-sama and Sirzechs-sama are worried. They are afraid that your house will become extinct. We lost a great number of pure-blood devils in the last war. Even if the war has finished, our rivalry with the fallen-angels and God isn't finished yet. It's not rare for a pure-blood devil to get killed which leads to the household becoming extinct because of the worthless battle against them. So for pure-blood devils that are also high-class devils getting together would be the absolute solution to fix this situation. A pure-blood high-class devil. Even you know that these children will be important from now on, right?”



Buchou and Raiser started to argue about something I don't get. But even a dumbass like me knew that they were discussing an important thing about the devils' society. Buchou became quiet when Raiser started a serious topic. But she still had furious eyes. Raiser continued talking after drinking the tea.

"The newly produced devils. The ones like your servants, the reincarnated devils, are expanding in terms of strength but that would make us, the pure-blood devils, lose place. There are old nobles who get close to the powerful reincarnated devils. But that's alright. The newly produced devils are important for the future as well. But we can't allow the pure-blood devils to go extinct right? We were chosen in order to prevent the pure-bloods from going extinct. I have my older brothers in my house, so my house is safe. Then there would only be you, Rias, who can inherit the house of Gremory. If you don't take a husband, the house of Gremory will go extinct with your generation. Are you trying to crush the house which has been in history since ancient times? Because of the past war, there is not even half the number of devils who are referred as "72 pillars". This marriage has the future of the devils on the line."

.....Hmmm, the discussion is getting really serious..... I think Kiba told me about the "72 pillars" before. A long time ago there were 72 devils who held peerage, and each clan had dozens of armies. But most of them died in the war. Buchou's clan are pure-blood devils that survived the war. I was pissed when Raiser kept on saying engagement, but listening to the whole story makes it seem very complicated. Pure-blood devils, in other words Buchou and Raiser. A pure devil. It means their parents are also pure-blood devils. A real devil. Asia and I would be reincarnated devils then. An ancient rule, huh. Then my opinion would be useless..... But it's alright. I will just agree with Buchou's decision. Only if that's what she desires.

"I'm not going to crush my house. I will take a husband."

Raiser made a big smile after hearing Buchou.

"Ahhh, that's it Rias! Then let's..."

"But I won't marry you, Raiser. I will only marry the one I'll want to be with. Even the devils who obey the old rules have the right to choose."

Buchou rejected Raiser's speech and said it very clearly. Raiser became very unpleasant after hearing that. His eyes became sharper and he even made a noise with his tongue.

".....You know Rias. I'm also a devil who holds the name of Phenex behind me. I can't let that name get scratched. I didn't even want to come to a small old building like this in the human world. Actually I don't like the human world. The fire and wind in this world is dirty. For a devil like me who symbolizes fire and wind, I can't stand it!"

FLAME!

There were flames around Raiser. There were small bits of fire around the room.

“I will take you back to the underworld, even if I have to burn all of your servants.”

I could feel the instinct to kill within the room. The pressure from Raiser’s body came right at us. I felt something very cold in my back, and it felt like all the hair on my body was about to stand. The killing intent directed by a high-class devil. This is bad! My hands and body were trembling. Asia hugged my arm because she got scared. Yeah, Asia wouldn’t be able to withstand this atmosphere. I felt uneasiness like the time when I fought the fallen-angel. No it was even more worse. Kiba and Koneko-chan weren’t trembling but they were getting ready to fight any time. Buchou made a stance against Raiser, and there was a red aura coming out of her body. Raiser also had flames coming out from his body. Hot.... It was obvious that we would get turned to ash if we got hit by that flame! I could feel the same strength of magic power as Buchou from his flames! Buchou is stronger than the fallen-angel I beat..... So does it mean having the same strength as Buchou means that he is incredibly strong? The flame gathered around Raiser’s back and formed wings of flames. Exactly like a fire bird. The atmosphere was intense. But there was one person who interfered calmly. It was Grayfia-san.

“Ojou-sama, Raiser-sama, please calm down. If both of you were to continue, then I won’t be quiet about it.”

Buchou and Raiser both made a serious face after hearing Grayfia-san’s intense voice. It seemed like they were scared of her.

Raiser calmed the flames around his body and made a sigh while shaking his head.

“.....To be told that by the “Ultimate Queen”, even I would be scared..... I definitely wouldn’t want to fight the people from Sirzech-sama’s group which is said to be made up of monsters.”

Does Buchou’s brother have that much strength? I also didn’t know that Grayfia-san was that strong. I don’t even feel any intent to kill from her. Buchou stopped her magic aura and disbanded her battle position. Apparently we were saved from the worst case scenario. Grayfia-san spoke after confirming that both Buchou and Raiser had no intention to fight anymore.

“Everyone such as the master, Sirzechs-sama and the people from the house of Phenex knew it would become like this. To tell you the truth this was to be the last discussion meeting. Everyone knew that it wouldn’t be solved, so they decided to make a last resort.”

“Last resort? What do you mean Grayfia?”

“Ojou-sama, if you wish to push your opinion forward, then how about you decide it by doing the “Rating game” with Raiser-sama?

“.....!?”

Buchou lost the words from her mouth. She seemed to be very shocked. “Rating Game”? I think I heard about it before, but where.....?

“It’s a game that is played by the devils with peerage, and they compete by making their servants battle.”

Kiba explained it to me because I had a confused look. Oh I think I remember. It’s a battle amongst devils where you use your servants, “Pawn”, “Knight”, “Bishop”, “Rook”, and “Queen”. Apparently your strength in the game reflects your social standing in the devils’ world. But wasn’t that game only played by mature aged devils, and Buchou who isn’t at the mature age couldn’t participate in it? Grayfia-san continued to explain which answered my questions.

“Just like ojou-sama knows, “Rating game” can only be played by mature aged devils. But if it’s an unofficial match, then even pure-blood devils who haven’t reached mature age can participate. But in this case....”

“It usually involves the family and household problem, right?”

Buchou continued to talk while making a sigh.

“In other words otou-sama and the others chose to make us do the game as a last resort when I was to decline, right?What nerve do they have to keep on controlling my life.....!”

Buchou was really pissed now. Wow.....I can feel her urge to kill! Scary.....

“Then ojou-sama, you are saying you would also decline to participate in the game?”

“No. This is a chance. Alright then. Let’s decide this by the game, Raiser.”

Raiser smirked after Buchou challenged him.

“Phew, you’re accepting it? I don’t mind. But I’m already a matured devil and I have already participated in the official game. Right now I have won most of the games. Even so, you still want to play, Rias?”

Raiser replied back with a challenging tone. Buchou made a smirk.

“I will. I will make you disappear, Raiser!”

“Fine. If you win, do whatever you like. But if I win, you will marry me immediately.”

Both of them glared at each other. They were both glaring at each other with scary eyes. Looks like a low-class devil like myself had no right to get between them!

“Understood. I, Grayfia, confirm both sides opinion. I will be in charge of the game between the two sides. Is that okay?”

“Yes.”

“Yeah.”

Buchou and Raiser both agreed to Grayfia-san’s approval.

“Okay. I will inform the two households then.”

Grayfia-san bowed her head after confirming. Wow, it had become really serious now! Game! Will I have to participate in it as well!? Raiser looked at me and then smirked. Shit, he’s really pissing me off.

“Hey, Rias. Would the ones here be your servants?”

“So what?”

Raiser started laughing after Buchou answered him, as if he found it amusing.

“Then this match will be a laugh. Only your “Queen”, the “Lightning Priestess” can fight on par with my servants.”

When Raiser said that he clicked his fingers. The magic circle on the floor glowed. Shadows appeared from the magic circle. One, two, three.....shit..... I stopped counting after I saw the number of shadows that appeared.

“And these are my cute servants.”

There were 15 people that seemed to be Raiser’s servants around him. There was a person that looked like a “Knight” who was wearing armor.

There was someone that seemed to be a magician who was wearing a hood. He had the maximum number of servants! The servant devils, just like in real chess, can be a maximum number of 15 servants. High-class devils receive 15 “Evil Pieces” from the Demon-lord. Using that to choose who you wish to make your servants forms the master and servant relationship. If the person you wish to make your servant has high potential capacities, then the chess consumption doubles.

That’s why there are cases where there is only 1 “Rook” or 1 “Knight”. Buchou also had the same case. That is me. You can get a maximum of 8 “Pawns”, but Buchou used all 8 pieces on me because there is an extremely fiendish thing within me. That’s why there is a high-class devil that doesn’t have 15 servants. But Raiser had the maximum number of 15 servants. It’s a magnificent view to see all 16 devils including the “King”. We only had a “King”, 1 “Queen”, 1 “Rook”, 1 “Bishop”, 1 “Knight”, and 1 “Pawn”. So that made a 6 versus 16!? I got shocked by that fact. No, I’m sorry. There was something else on my mind. I couldn’t help it! Because...!

They were all girls! The knight and magician I mentioned before were girls! There was also a girl wearing a Chinese dress! There were two girls who had beast ears! There were two girls who seemed to be twins! Also a loli girl! There were two older girls with nice curves as well! There

was also a girl wearing a kimono who looked like a “Yamato Nadeshiko”! There was also a girl wearing a dress who looked like a European princess! A woman who held a sword on her back! There was also a girl wearing a dancer’s outfit! There was one wearing a mask which hid half of her face! They were all bijous or bishoujous!? An army of beauty actually existed!? I felt electricity running through my body!So that’s it! This guy, Raiser, actually did it!?

Every guy's dream, a harem!! The high-class devil who made a harem! Raiser Phenex! What a person..... What a guy.....

“He.....hey Rias..... This servant-kun over here is crying a lot while looking at me.”

Raiser said it while looking at me. He seemed to be really freaked out by me. Buchou looked at me and made a worried face while touching her forehead.

“This boy’s dream is to have a harem. I think he was moved after looking at your servants.”

Yes. Yes. That’s exactly right. I cried because I saw my dream, my objective, right in front of me. What a lucky guy. They are all girls.

“Gross.”

“Raiser-sama, this person is freaking me out!”

Raiser’s girls made an unpleasant face after looking at me. Damn it! Fuck you all! Raiser calmed them by feeling their bodies.

“Don’t say that, my cute girls. Looking up to high-class devils is what a lowly being does. Let’s show them how close we are.”

After he said that, Raiser started to tongue kiss one of the girls! Shit, he’s making noise by moving his tongue around! Buchou seemed like she didn’t care.

“Ha.....Ahhh.....”

The girl made a sweet voice while putting her legs around Raiser’s! Shit, my thing is reacting to it!

“Hau.....”

Asia’s face had gotten so red that it seemed like it would blow any second. This view must have been too strong for Asia. Raiser took his mouth away, and there were threads of saliva between the two. He then started to tongue kiss the other girl! Don’t start the 2nd round in here!? I mean we can actually do that to our servants!? We can!? I can!? Shit! So if I work hard I can become like this one day! Raiser who finished his 2nd tongue kiss smirked at me. It seemed like he was saying “You will never be able to do this”.

“You will never be able to do this.”

“Don’t say what I think you were saying! Damn it! Boosted Gear!”

My head was full of rage and jealousy so I put my left hand up in the air and shouted. The thing which is possessed in my left arm appeared after it was covered in a red light. A red gauntlet which had a mark of a dragon. “Boosted Gear”, which is said to be a masterpiece Sacred Gear which gives enormous power to the possessor. I pointed it at Raiser and said to him,

“A womanizer like you isn’t good enough to be with Buchou!”

“Huh? Aren’t you looking up to me, the so-called womanizer?”

Gu....! He got right at the point.

“Sh...shut up! That’s different with the thing about Buchou! At this rate, you will continue to flirt with other girls even after you marry Buchou!”

“Heroes loves women. That’s a saying in the human world, right? A good phrase indeed. But this is just a close relationship with my servants. Even you get adored by Rias, don’t you?”

That’s true..... But somehow I can’t forgive him! Maybe because he has the same taste as me? I don’t know the actual reason but is it because I’m still young?

“Hero my ass! You are just a bird guy! Fire bird Pheonix? Hahaha! That’s the same as fried chicken!”

Raiser made an outrageous face at my provocation.

“Fried chicken!? You low-class devil!! Don’t get ahead of yourself! That’s not the way you talk to a high-class devil! Rias! You have to educate your servants!”

Buchou just ignored his claim and said “Like I care”.

“Hey fried-chicken guy! I will just beat the crap out of you with my “Boosted Gear”!”

My pride! My Boosted Gear! It doubles my power every 10 seconds, and after a while I can attain a power to kill even a God!

“We don’t need to have a match! I will just take you all down, right here, right now!”

[BOOST!!]

I felt power going through my body at the same time a voice came from the jewel! The proof that my power doubled! My punch that even defeated the fallen-angel! Take this! I was full of energy but Raiser just made a sigh.

“Mira. Do it.”

“Yes, Raiser-sama.”

Raiser ordered his servant. She was small just like Koneko-chan. She had a stick that martial artists use and made her stance after swinging the stick around. Nnnn, I don't feel like fighting such a small girl, so if I knock her stick away she would back down... That's what I thought, but suddenly I felt my body feel lighter. I felt like my body was floating. Huh? The floor.....?

KASAHINNN!!

I heard a loud noise.....Ouch.... I felt pain running through my whole body.....What happened?

“Gahaa!!”

I felt pain in my stomach. Ouch..... My stomach? Was I hit in my stomach.....?

“Ise-san!”

Asia came to my side and she put her hands on my stomach. Then there was a green light around my body. I felt something warm in my stomach and soon I didn't feel any pain. It's the healing power of Asia. It's a Sacred Gear that can even heal devils that don't even have the divine protection of God. But because of that Asia was targeted by a fallen-angel..... But what happened to me? I know that I'm down on the floor. When I looked around there was a desk broken in half and stuff spread around the floor. When I looked at where Raiser was, the girl put her stick away.

.....Did I get hit? I couldn't see it. Does it mean I received damage without realizing it? So I was hit towards the desk..... Raiser walked towards me, bent down and whispered into my ears.

“You are weak.”

! That word left a deep scar in my heart.

“The one who you just fought is my “Pawn” Mira. She's the weakest out of my servants, but she has more battle experience and has more talent as a devil than you. Boosted Gear? Huh?”

Raiser started knocking on my Sacred Gear and he started laughing with his nose.

“This is certainly one of the invincible and dangerous Sacred Gears. By how you use it you can not only beat me, but also Demon-lords and God. There were quite a number of possessors who had that before. But there hasn't been any case where it defeated a God or Demon-lords. Do you know what this means?”

Raiser then laughed really loudly.

“It means that this Sacred Gear is imperfect and also the possessors were bunch of weaklings that couldn’t use it! You are the same as well! How do you say this in the human world again?Yes, “Pearls before swine”. Fuhahahaha! Yes, pearls before swine! It’s about you! Rias’s “Pawn”-kun!”

Raiser started slapping my head while laughing so much..... Damn it! I was so mortified that I clenched my teeth. I wanted to talk back but I couldn’t. It’s the truth that I am weak. Right now I even lost to a girl smaller than me. I was disappointed in myself!

“But the match would be interesting if you were to get used to it.”

Raiser put his hand on his chin and thought about something.

“Rias, how about we have a match in 10 days? We could do it now, but that wouldn't be interesting.”

“....Are you giving me a handicap.”

“Are you against it? Is it humiliating? “Rating Game” isn’t something simple that you can win with only your feelings. If you can’t use your servant’s power to the fullest, then you will lose immediately. So it’s not weird for you to train with your servants for your first “Rating Game”. No matter how much potential you have, no matter how much power you have, I have seen devils who lost without using their power to the fullest countless of times.”

Buchou kept quiet and listened carefully to what Raiser had to say. Raiser put his palm to the ground and it started to glow.

“10 days. If it’s you, then you should be able to improve your servants.”

He then looked at me.

“Don’t be a disgrace to Rias, Rias’s “Pawn”. Your hit is Rias’s hit.”

I realized that those words were said when thinking about Buchou.

“Rias, the next time we meet will be at the match.”

After he said that, Raiser disappeared in the magic circle along with his servants.

Part 5

“.....Shit.”

I was desperate in keeping my anger and regret within check. After that, the club activity; devil’s job, was canceled. Buchou and Akeno-san went deep inside the old school building and never

came out. Apparently they were discussing a plan. It looked like they were making strategies for the “Rating game”.

This will be Buchou’s first match. It would be normal to make strategies and even to cancel the club activity. After 10 days, huh. That’s too soon. Will that be enough time for gathering the factors to defeat Raiser and his servants?..... But it won’t change much if a “Pawn” like myself says it. I showed off in front of Buchou and provoked Raiser only to get beaten down by a small girl..... Noooooo! Just remembering it makes me embarrassed!Haaaa.....I’m so weak....

I then looked at my left arm. The thing which is possessed in here has absolute power. “Boosted Gear” which increases the power to no limits. But it has many weak points. That’s me, who is vulnerable. In other words “Pearl before swine”. Just like Raiser said.

Shit! I’m so weak..... Harem-king, my dream. The devil who accomplished making a harem, Raiser.

“Ahhh shit!”

I got up from the bed and started messing my hair up. Buchou said she still didn’t want to get married. She said she didn’t want to if the husband was Raiser. She chose to battle Raiser in order to cancel the engagement.

Engagement between high-class devils. I don’t know much about their houses issues because it’s too complicated, but I will only fight for Buchou’s sake! I have a debt of gratitude towards Buchou. A lot in fact. I want to fight for Buchou. I need to support Buchou! Okay! From tomorrow morning I will start my training again! More like training for the whole day! I can skip school if I tell Buchou.

I’m going to spend my next 10 days on training. I will contact Kiba so I can learn how to use swords. I will ask Akeno-san how to use magic powers. I will learn close combat from Koneko-chan! I started to feel a bit at ease after I made my decision. Ummm, I will go and have a bath now. I went downstairs and got ready to take a bath. I went inside the bathroom while fired up and took my clothes off quickly. After I take a bath, I will talk to Asia about tomorrow.

[OPEN]

It was when I opened the door.

“Ah.....”

“Huh.....?”

Asia and I met inside the bathroom. I was naked and so was Asia!! A blond haired bishoujo was fully naked in front of me! What good timing! No, no, I mean accident! She was inside!? I was thinking about a lot of stuff, so I forgot to check who was inside! Asia’s body was wet because she just had a shower.

I'm so lucky! But you have nice proportions Asia.... Her tight hips. Her small ass is so lovely, damn it! Her thighs aren't too skinny but it isn't too fat, just the right size for me. If I was to see these thighs when she wears a skirt, I would be down on my knees. And her breasts were something I didn't know about since she always had her clothes on. It's not small, but it's a pretty impressive size! Asia..... I'm glad you have grown this much.....

No, it's not the time for being moved by her growth! Why on earth am I staring at her body!? Shit! Why don't I have a scouter that can read the B-W-H! This is my second time regretting it! Next time I will ask Motohama on how to attain that power! That's the ultimate move! It's probably more impressive than my Sacred Gear! No that's not it! I shouldn't be staring at her anymore! I'm her guardian that needs to protect her! I need to make sure she can live safely! That's what I promised myself! And yet I got excited by looking at her naked body.....

N...no.....! When I looked, Asia started to look down.

No! It's too early for her to look at....

“.....”

I was too late covering my “mini-me”.

“Kyaaa!”

And the one who screamed was me! What am I doing!? I accidentally screamed! I mean it's embarrassing to have my “mini-me” exposed to a girl!

“.....Ah.....”

Asia's whole body started to go red and she looked to the side. Hey, hey Asia. Don't forget to hide your private parts! I can see everything! Was my mini-me so astonishing that you forgot to hide your private parts!? Thinking about it, this would be her first time seeing a guy's thing, since she was a nun. It should have surprised her so much. In the worst case, it might become a trauma for her. Oh my, what have I done to this poor child!

“I...I'm sorry! I will leave now!”

I turned around and tried to leave the bathroom. But...

But Asia grabbed my wrist to stop me from leaving. What's going on Asia-chan!?

“.....I'm sorry. It was.....my first time seeing a boy's..... I'm sorry.....”

I couldn't hear her say the word for that because she said it while mumbling. Don't push yourself Asia.

“N....no. I'm sorry as well. I came in without checking..... I'm sorry. I saw a lot of your.....”

I apologized as well. I was the one at fault here. I came in without checking who was inside the bath. I should have checked even if it wasn't locked, since we gained a new family member. But I burnt the image of Asia's naked body within my memory. Forgive me if I ever use it.

"No, I understand..... Everyone told me about the rule when you have a bath in Japan, so I'm alright....."

Huh? She was told? Rule? Japanese rule?

"I heard that there is the thing called having a bath together..... You get to know each other by having a bath together....."

!! Who was it!? Who told Asia this wonderful....! No! Who told Asia this weird information!? No, no. It's not a mistake. There is a thing like that in Japan. But that's only with the same gender! Asia continued while her cheeks went red,

".....I was told to do this with one who is important to me..... I don't mind if it's Ise-san..... No, I want to know about Ise-san even more..... That's why will you have a bath with me....?"

[NOSEBLEED]

So much blood came out from my nose. Lately it has been happening a lot!

.....Wait. It would be dangerous if it stays like this any longer, Asia. I'm also a guy. I will lose myself if I hear a magic word like that! She wouldn't know what would happen to me if I did. I mean, Asia believes in me from the bottom of her heart. If I become a beast and push her down..... Nooooooooo!! I can't do that! No, I want to! No, I can't! I mean this girl! She seems like she'd forgive me even if I do! I can't do something like that to her! Damn it! This is the situation I longed for! It was stopped just before the good stuff with Buchou! This is revenge! I know that! But if Asia is my partner, I would feel really guilty! Pushing her down is easy. I could do it now with this flow. But the problem is after that. I know I would regret it very much. I probably wouldn't forgive myself for the rest of my life. If we were in a serious relationship then it wouldn't be a problem. But Asia and I aren't in that kind of relationship! Last time with Buchou I went along with the flow, but now I have to control myself! Just having a physical relationship will hurt both of us! I need to protect Asia! I can't lose myself! It's endurance, me! I turned around to Asia after I made my mind up. I grabbed on to her shoulders and then opened my mouth. But Asia's skin was so soft and smooth!!

"Asia! Listen up! Having a bath together....! No! You are a girl, so if a guy enters the bathroom then you have to make sure you defend....."

I was confused myself but I needed to tell Asia what she had to do at times like this. Then.....

[DOOR OPEN]

The door opened.

“Asia-chan. I will leave the towel here.....”

My “oka-sama” appeared. She was trying to put the towel on top of the washing machine, but she froze after seeing me and Asia together..... Holy shit. I can’t make any excuses if we don’t have our clothes on! No matter how you look at it, it only looks like a guy and a girl trying to have sex! Mum left the bathroom and her movements were stiff like a robot. Then she shouted.

“Otou-san! We..we are going to have a grandchild!”

I fled the bathroom naked. I hid my face with my hands. There was one thing I was thinking about when I was running towards my room. Someone please kill me!

Part 6

The next morning.

I called Asia into my room. We were sitting opposite each other.

“Listen up, Asia-san.”

“Yes, Ise-san.”

“Guys are beasts. If you get too close to us, we will eat you.”

“.....Men are half beast? That is scary..... I can’t walk outside during the full moon then.....”

Asia was taking what I had said seriously. I held my head down..... Man, I’m seriously getting a headache. After the bathroom incident, I was lecturing Asia about how dangerous guys are. This girl is too defenseless..... Well Asia was living in an unordinary place so it can’t be helped. But I have to tell her how guys are beasts when they are my age, and that girls like her would be preyed on easily. If I don’t she won’t be able to have a safe school life. Well if there were guys like that who approached Asia, then I would beat the crap out of them. No that won’t be enough. I need to teach her how her purity is something very important to her. But usually a girl should be teaching her this kind of stuff..... By the way, my parents went to a discount store after that night and bought baby clothes and baby toys. They seemed really happy. I tried to explain to them but they just said.

“Don’t worry, I know. Lately girls get pregnant before marriage, so people are accepting it. Oh my. I would like a girl for my first grandchild!”

“So I will be a grandpa..... If it’s a boy then I have to buy him a carp streamer. Looks like my family has become “international” now. I probably should learn how to speak English now.”

It was useless. My parent’s are worthless.

Now getting back to the part where guys are dangerous. I said it to Asia again.

“That’s not it, Asia. Guy’s around my age are very interested in girls. It’s not an exaggeration if I were to say that they are always thinking about girls. Actually we think about naughty stuff every few seconds. If there is a day where we see a girl's panties, then it’s a festival day for us.”

“Do you also think about naughty stuff as well, Ise-san?”

“Yes, of course. I’m also perverted. Even you know that as well, right, Asia?”

“Yes.”

Asia replied with a smile. Because she was smiling, it made a crack in my heart. Is that so..... So she knows I’m perverted....

“Ye...yes. I’m perverted. Guys like that are really scary. That’s why guys like that drag pure girls like you into a place and do something very bad.”

“Something very bad?”

Asia tilted her head. Man. Each of her actions is damn cute.

“They touch your body. Then they touch your body again. Then again they touch your body! In other words they do indecent actions towards girls! It’s dangerous right? Scary right?”

“Yes, I’m scared. But if I get in danger, Ise-san will come and save me.”

Asia smiled and answered me like she actually meant it. Oh crap..... My eyes are getting hot.... She truly believes in me. I’m deeply moved. No, no. I’m getting off topic. It’s not the time to be moved. I then continued after making a cough.

“But Asia, you have to increase your awareness as a girl. I’m scared because you don’t doubt other people.”

“You are scared, Ise-san?”

“Yes I am. If some guys do something to you when I’m not looking, then I might kill those guys. I’m that worried about you, Asia.”

I told her seriously and sincerely. Asia listened to me seriously as well because I was making a serious face. But I told her what I actually thought. If someone ever deceives Asia, then I won’t hold back even if that person is human. I’m a devil. Also with an insane Sacred Gear. Even if I’m far superior to a human, I won’t hold back my anger. Even if Buchou were to kill me, I will still beat the crap out of that guy. That’s how important Asia is to me. Because she’s a girl? That would be a reason. Because I like her? That would also be a reason. But I also changed her life drastically. I changed her life that she could have finished as a nun to a devil's one. I made her into a devil because of my own justice.....no, my own selfishness. At that time, this was the best solution. But I... Buchou said that it was she who turned her into a devil so I don’t have to worry

about it. But that's not fair. I need to look after her so she can live peacefully. For the rest of my life, that is. I, Hyoudou Issei, need to protect Asia Argento for the rest of my life. I will also protect Buchou, but protecting Asia may be similar yet a bit different. Yes, I should think about it carefully again.

Protecting Buchou. I like Buchou as a girl, and I also look up to her so I have to protect her. It's similar to how a samurai serves his master. It's a similar feeling to the subordinate of a person aiming to reach the top.

Protecting Asia. I like Asia as a girl, but more like how a brother loves his little sister. That's why I am strict on who can get close to Asia. Though I don't have a sister so I don't know if it is similar or not. I also want Asia to get stronger as well. So I can always laugh besides her.

"I understand. I won't make Ise-san worried about me. That's why, please teach me a lot."

"Yeah I know. But it's better to be taught by a girl rather than a person of the opposite sex like me. I will also talk to Buchou and Akeno-san, so just get used to the lifestyle now."

"Yes."

Fuuuuu. I made a big sigh. Looks like it will work. In any case, I will talk to the girls once I get to school. But of course I will hide the bathroom incident. Then Asia asked me a question,

"Ummm.....Ise-san, can I ask you a question?"

Asia became shy and her face got red. What is it?

"If it was Buchou who was in the bath yesterday.....would you have had a bath with her.....?"

Wha..... I didn't know what to say because of the sudden question. I never expected Asia to ask me a question like this. But Asia had a serious face even though her face was red. Huh? Why did she ask a question like that? I don't get it at all. Why did Buchou come into the topic? But if it was Buchou at that scene and she said the same thing Asia did....

"Ise, come over here. I will wash your back. Ufufufu. Are you getting nervous? It's alright since you are my cute servant. So you can leave everything to me."

Buchou's skinny white fingers touched my back. I started to get horny.

"Here turn around. Ara? Ufufufu. Even though you are nervous, you are stiff down here. It's just like you, Ise."

Buchou reached between my legs. And then.....

..... Huh!? Oh shit I was imagining something bad. Ah. There's blood flowing out of my nose! But I don't know what I would do if Buchou said that to me!

“Can I wash your boobs, Buchou!?”

I would probably ask her that. I can also imagine Buchou allowing me to while smiling. Damn it! Even if this is my imagination, I could use it for a while! Then when I looked at Asia, her eyes were watery.

“Is that so..... It’s okay if it’s Buchou-san then..... Sob..... It’s okay. I know..... I knew about it already..... But.....sob.....”

I started to panic after seeing her.

“What are you two doing, early in the morning?”

A familiar voice. When I turned around it was a girl with crimson hair. It was Buchou. She then made a sigh.

“Bu....Buchou....”

“A lover’s quarrel in the morning? You two are so close like usual.”

“N...no. This is!”

“Hurry, let’s go. Get ready for lodging.”

Go? Where? Wait, lodging!? Buchou answered me with a smile,

“We will go to the mountain by train.”

Part 7

“Ha.....ha.....”

I was inhaling a lot of air while carrying a load of bags.

“Yahooooooooooooo!”

[Yahooooooooooooo!]

I could hear someone’s echo. Damn it. It must be a mountain hiker. They sure are having fun. Right now I’m in the mountains. We were brought here by Buchou, after she said we were going to train.

Buchou suddenly came to my house this morning, and made me and Asia pack our stuff. The other members were already gathered and we came here by the magic circle transportation. The sky is so blue. The surrounding is filled with tree’s and grass and you can hear the cries of the

birds. It would be the best spot for mountain viewing. But the problem is this slope. Every step I take drains my stamina away. And a lot of my sweat falls onto the ground.

“Hurry, Ise.”

Buchou, who is way ahead of me, urges me. Beside Buchou is Asia. She looks at me with a worried expression.

“.....I will help as well.”

“It’s okay. Ise can only get stronger this way.”

I can hear the two talking. Thank you Asia. And Buchou, you are cruel like always..... But carrying this much luggage is too much Buchou..... It’s too heavy..... I have a huge piece of luggage on my back and have other bags on my shoulders. Apparently this is also part of the training. I think I’m going to die before I reach the destination. What’s inside this luggage?

“Buchou, I gathered some herbs. Let’s use it for the meal tonight.”

Kiba says it with a normal expression. He’s also carrying a huge piece of luggage on his back. I lost my words when I saw him walk up the mountains without sweating. He has quite the amount of stamina since he also went to gather some herbs.

“.....See you later.”

Koneko-chan who has way more luggage than me walks past me! Guhaa! Superhuman girl! Shit I can’t lose to them!

“Oryaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!”

I then went up the mountain at full throttle! Hahaha! Shit I’m going to die! I’m seriously going to die! Like this we reached the mansion.

Part 8

This mansion, made from wood, is the possession of the house of Gremory. Usually it is hidden from humans by using magical powers, but since we were using it, it had appeared. When I went inside I could smell the scent of wood. I went to the living room to put the bags away and slept on the floor after drinking a glass of water. The girls went upstairs to get changed.

“I will also go and get changed.”

Kiba went to a room located on the first floor carrying a blue jersey.



“Don’t peek.”

Kiba said this jokingly.-

“I will seriously punch you, bastard!”

I didn’t have the strength to stand, so I gave him an evil eye. Shit. If some girls from our school saw us, then they would cause a ruckus. Recently the BL [1] pairings of “Me x Kiba” and “Kiba x Me” were getting popular. It was popular because it was the “Beauty and the Beast” pairing. I don’t understand what’s going on in their heads. Then it means that I’m the beast..... I won’t forgive them! I got changed in another room after I rested for a short time. The room had a bed and certain equipment used in everyday life. But it didn’t have a television. When I finished changing, everyone was already gathered in the living room. Buchou who was wearing a red jersey smiled at me after seeing me.

“Then let’s start our training.”

Life 3: I started my training

Lesson 1: Sword practice with Kiba.

“YO-HA.”

“Oryaa! Oryaaa!”

I was swinging the bokuto (wooden sword) and was sword training with Kiba. Kiba evades my attack smoothly. No matter how much force I apply to my swings, it doesn't seem like it will hit Kiba.

BASH

Kiba hit my bokuto again.

“That’s not it. Don’t just look at the opponent’s sword movements but widen your line of vision. You also have to look at the opponent and the surroundings.”

Even if you say that, it’s not that simple. The more I practiced with Kiba, the more I realize the difference in strength between us. Kiba’s ability is splendid. No wonder he has the role of a 'Knight'. He beat me with minimal movements. He has practiced for a longer time, has more battle experience and talent at using a sword than me.

“We are not done yet. Here I come!”

That day I witnessed it again. Kiba’s sword technique is superb.

Lesson 2: Magic practice with Akeno-san.

“That’s not it. Magical power is gathered from the aura that covers the whole body. You have to concentrate and feel the wave of magical power.”

Even if Akeno-san, who was wearing a black jersey, was teaching me, I couldn’t even gather magical power into my hand. Gununun..... Concentrate! I need to concentrate hard! I have to gather the magical power in my hand while imagining something!

“I did it!”

Asia who was wearing a white jersey, gathered the block of magical power in her hands. A light green colored magic. So Asia’s magic aura is green. It’s beautiful.

“Araara. So Asia-chan is gifted in using magical powers after all.”

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Asia's cheeks got red after Akeno-san complimented her. Nu..... Crap, I suck at this. It didn't even look like magic power at all. I somehow made a really small magical ball, but it was not big like Asia's. If Asia's magical ball had the size of a softball, mine had the size of a rice..... Well if Asia can get stronger then that's fine. But I have the ultimate Sacred Gear anyway! Hahahaha!

"Now we will change that magical ball into fire or lightning. You could make this by imagining it. But for a beginner, it will work better if you use it on actual fire or water and make it move by using magic."

Akeno-san sends her magical power into the water inside the water bottle.

SPIKE!

The water which received the magical power formed into the shape of a spike and ripped the water bottle from the inside. Wow, that's amazing.

"Asia-chan. I want you to do this next. Ise-kun, I want you to continue to gather the magical power by concentrating. The source of magic is imagining. Anyway it's important to make the thing you imagine inside your head into reality."

Hmmmm. Imagination, huh. To make the thing you imagine inside your head into reality.....

"It's easier to make it into the shape of something you are good at or things you always think about."

That's what you say Akeno-san, but..... Nnnn? Something I'm good at? Something I always think about? So is it possible to make "that" into reality?

"Akeno-san, do you have a minute?"

If I can make something I always think about into reality..... Then I can become invincible! Wow that's awesome! Even I think this will be something great! Akeno-san paused for a second.

"Fufufufu. It's something you would come up with Ise-kun."

She made a chuckle. Oh! So this may be possible? Akeno-san went back to the mansion. She brought something and put it in front of me. She brought loads of carrots, potatoes, and onions. Isn't this the ingredients for curry?

"Then Ise-kun. I want you to strip these off with your magic power during the stay here."

Oh I get it. I understood what Akeno-san wanted me to do and what she was trying to say. Looks like it's a long road ahead.

Lesson 3: Sparing with Koneko-chan.

“Nugaaaaaa”

BANG!

Gufu! Today I succeeded in getting pushed into a big tree for the tenth time. No that’s not it. I was blown away by Koneko-chan’s punch! Da...damn it!

“.....Weak.”

A loli shoujo who was wearing a yellow jersey gave me harsh words. Shit, I’m so shocked. I felt it with the incident with Raiser, but getting beaten by a small girl pains me. Koneko-chan is a devil shoujo who is good at martial arts technique including throwing moves and pinning techniques. She’s insanely strong with the mix of a “Rooks” traits of super strength and super high defense. She’s also keen because she has a small body, so if I let my guard down she will immediately be right in front of me. Then I received a blow in my stomach. I’m sure she was holding back, but it still hurt.

“.....You have to aim at the middle of the body when you give a blow. You hit with accuracy and also by thrusting your blow deep into the opponent’s body.”

Even if she says that, it would be hard for me to hit the opponent because I’m a total newbie. Koneko-chan started to swirl her arm around then pointed her fist at me.

“.....Then here’s another round.”

Looks like I’ll be killed.

Lesson 4: With Buchou!

“Ise! Keep on going!”

“Osu!”

I was currently climbing up a very steep mountain. I had a rock on my back which was tied to my body with rope. And on top of that, Buchou was sitting on the rock. I was walking up the mountain and then down the mountain. I kept on repeating this. The mountain path with no walking path was really exhausting. My legs were getting numb after I did dozens of laps and Buchou finally let me finish this.

“Okay, we are done with this. Next is muscle training. We will go with push ups.”

“Yea.....h.”

She's a devil. A devil-buchou! I lack basic stats so I had way more training than the other members. Also "Pawns" are required to run around the battle area the most, so it's essential for us to increase our stamina and power.

"Guwaa!"

Buchou put a rock on my back without any hesitation when I was in the posture for doing a push up. Magic is really useful because you can lift a rock up in the air with ease. If only she used that to carry the luggage.....

SIT.

"Unnnnnn..."

Then Buchou sat on top of the rock. Even a slight force pained me.....

"Then three-hundred push ups. Let's start."

"Osu!"

If I wasn't a devil, I would have already died hundreds of times.

"Uooooooo! Delicious! It's really delicious!"

We were having our dinner after finishing a day of training. We had an extravagance of food on the table. The herbs Kiba collected earlier were used for spices. The meat was made from the boar Buchou hunted earlier. It was my first time eating it and it tasted delicious because it didn't have any nasty taste to it! Buchou also caught some fish. They were just cooked and had some salt on it yet it tasted good as well! There were also different types of food on the table.

"Araara, we still have more food left so eat as much as you want."

Akeno-san gave a refill of rice. And the food was all made by Akeno-san! Oh!! It's good! It's really good! Everyone was digging into the food. We were all seriously tired from the training. That's why I could fill my stomach with lots of food. Most of the things inside the luggage were equipment used for cooking. It was worth all the hard training if I got to eat delicious food like this. I probably shouldn't say it out loud, but Koneko-chan was eating a lot of food quickly.

"Akeno-san, you are the best! I want you to be my wife!"

"Ufufufu. You are embarrassing me."

Akeno-san smiled while putting her hand on her cheek. She looked so good in the Japanese apron.

“.....I'm the one who made the soup.”

Huh!? Asia who was beside me looked sad. She looked so sulky. Apparently the onion soup on the table was made by Asia. She was probably feeling sad because I was only praising Akeno-san's food. I got the bowl of soup and drank it with one sip. Yes, it's good!

“It's good Asia! It's the best! Give me another one!”

“It is!? I'm so glad..... Then now I can also be with.....Ise-san.....”

“Hmmm? I couldn't hear the last part. What was that?”

“N..no, it's nothing!”

Asia waved her hand while her face became red. Huh? What was she trying to say?

“Now, Ise. From today's training what have you found out?”

Buchou asked me after drinking green tea. I put my chopsticks down and answered her seriously,

“.....I am the weakest.”

“Yes. That's for sure.”

I felt like crying after she answered back quickly.

“Akeno, Yuuto, and Koneko have lots of battle experience even though they have not participated in the game, so they can fight if they get used to it. But you and Asia basically have no experience yet. Even so, your Boosted Gear and Asia's healing ability can't be ignored. Even the enemy knows that. I want you to have at least the power to run away from the enemy.”

“Run?Is it that hard?”

Buchou nodded at my question.

“Running away is also a part of the strategy. Retreating to form a new formation is also a professional way of battling. There are ways to win a match like that. But running away with your back facing an enemy is something very hard. If it's an enemy with roughly the same strength as you, it is easy, but showing your back to an enemy who is far superior to you is basically saying please kill me. So running away from an enemy like that is also part of the strategy. So I have to teach you and Asia the timing to run away as well. Of course I will also teach you how to fight the enemy head on.”

“Roger that.”

“Yes.”

Asia and I replied to Buchou. It was unavoidable that Asia got involved in this fight since she became a member of the Gremory household..... I need to have the power to at least protect Asia. In the worst case I will have to become Asia’s shield. That is the resolution I need to have.

“Let’s take a shower after the meal. It’s an outdoor bath so it’s wonderful.”

! With Buchou’s words I started to think about naughty stuff. Bath!? Outdoor bath!? If it’s an outdoor bath, then it’s a place to peek! Peeking is the right way for an outdoor bath! Yes! It’s a sin not to peek if you are born as a man!

“I’m not going to peek, Ise-kun.”

Kiba said it to me smiling.

“You dumb-ass!”

“Ara. Ise, do you want to peek at us while we are taking a bath?”

Everyone looked at me after Buchou’s question. Oh shit. I feel awkward..... I feel like apologizing for being a perv. But Buchou laughed.

“Then do you want to take a bath together? I don’t mind.”

What! I felt electricity running through my body! Ku! Buchou’s Japanese was stunning like always! I felt like crying because of her wonderful idea!

“How about you, Akeno?”

“I don’t mind if it’s Ise-kun. Ufufufu. I might want to wash the man’s back.”

Akeno-san gave me an okay with a smile! I totally want her to wash my back! Absurd! It’s okay then!? It’s really okay!? How unguarded can the girls from this club get!?

“How about you, Asia? If it’s your love, Ise, then you are alright with it right?”

Asia got red and became quiet after Buchou’s question, but she eventually nodded. Wow! I never thought a situation like this would happen to me!? Wow wow wow wow wow!! What should I do!? I’m confident that I will have to bend my body the whole time!

“Lastly Koneko? How about it?”

“.....No.”

She rejected me!? I was dreaming for a moment, but this was a natural response from an ordinary girl!

“Then it’s a no. Too bad, Ise.”

Buchou made a chuckle. Wha..... They raised my hopes up, then dropped me to the depths of abyss. Because of the shocking conclusion, my view became black. Sob..... I was so close.... So having a dream that is impossible is impossible after all..... Then it looks like I have to peek.....

“.....If you peek, then I will hold a grudge against you forever.”

Guha! I received a finishing blow from Koneko-chan! Shit! It’s a no after all! I had my hopes up!

“Ise-kun, let’s have a naked bath together. I will wash your back.”

“Shut up!!! I will fucking kill you for real, Kiba!!”

My shout of anger echoed throughout the mansion.

Training Day 2.

When I woke up in the morning, what awaited me was the intense pain of muscle aches. That’s because I also trained at night.

“You also have a special training program for night time.”

That’s what Buchou said. The training was much harder than the training I do every morning. It has a few times more training than the one I did in the morning. Even if a devil is much stronger at night, I would still die if I train during both the day and night. I was already in a bad mood because I had to share the room with Kiba. When I heard the girls' voices from upstairs, I regretted being born as a guy. Then in the morning for day 2, it was study time. Apparently they gathered at the living room so that they could teach me and Asia about devils' knowledge. Therefore they were teaching me some weird names which were hard to remember. Because I was taught things that I don’t even understand, my brain was about to get fried. When they pumped quite a decent amount of information, Kiba asked me a question.

“Our greatest enemy are the angels led by God. What is the name given to the top angels? Also what are their names?”

“Ummm, it’s seraphim, right? The members are Michael, Raphael, Gabriel, and Ur.....Uriel?”

“Correct.”

Fu..... So it's correct. I remembered that they all have an “-el” at the end of their name, so somehow I remembered them all.

“Next is our “Maou-sama”. What are the names of the “Yondai-Maou-sama (Four Great Satans)”?”

“Alright! Piece of Cake! I'm planning to meet them when I get a peerage! So I remembered all their names! Lucifer-sama, Beelzebub-sama, and Asmodeus-sama! And lastly the “female Maou-sama” that I look up to, Leviathan-sama!”

“Correct.”

“I'm definitely going to meet Leviathan-sama!”

I heard from Buchou that the person standing at the top of the female devils is “Maou Leviathan-sama”. I also heard that she is a beautiful Maou! I was also told that I would get a chance to meet her! Ku! I can't wait! How beautiful will she be? Since she is Maou-sama, she would be very beautiful..... Ha..... I really want to meet her.

“Then next, I will ask you to say the names of the leaders of the fallen-angels that you, Ise-kun, totally detest.”

Here it comes. The names of those fallen-angels I totally hate..... The fallen angels have more leaders than the other factions. But their names are complicated..... But I remember the names of the top 2.

“The main group is called “Grigori”. The name of the Governor is “Azazel” and the name of the vice-governor is “Shemhaza”. I know completely up to here. The name of the leaders areArmaros, Barakiel, Tamiel..... And..... ummmmm, huh? Bene-something and Cociane?”

“Benemue, Kokabiel and Shariel. You have to remember them properly. This is also the basics. It's the same as remembering the names of the prime minister and vice-prime minister of Japan.”

How can I!? They have too many leaders! Two is enough! What are the jobs of the other leaders, then!? Man, that's why fallen-angels are such a pain. They are probably scum anyway. Also they survey the “Children of God”, the “Sacred Gear” possessors twenty-four seven. That's also the reason why I was attacked and why Asia was killed. The fallen-angels made a group to research about the Sacred Gears. They invite beneficial Sacred Gear possessors to their group or they take their Sacred Gears. If they aren't beneficial then they kill them on the spot. Seriously they are the biggest scum ever. They even kill those possessors that do not know about their own Sacred Gear. That's how I was. They seem to be the greatest enemy of the devils, so I won't hold back on them. I won't hold back on those guys who did such a terrible thing to Asia! Like this I was taught about angels and fallen-angels. It's becoming quite useful to know. I need to remember especially about the relation between the devils and other factions. Then next, Asia lectured us.

“Cough. Then now, I, Asia Argento will explain about the basics of the exorcists.”

Oh. Clap-clap. I gave Asia a clap. Then she turned red. Man, she is cute.

“Um...ummmm. From the place I used to belonged to, there were two types of exorcists.”

“Two types?”

Asia nodded at my question.

“The first type are the ones that appears in films and novels. The father reads a section of the book, then he uses the holy water to get rid of the devil from the person’s body. They are known as the “Usual exorcists”. Then the “Other exorcists” would be the ones that are a threat to us.”

Buchou continued from where Asia left off.

“Ise, you also have met him before, but the greatest threat to devils' are either God or exorcists who received the divine protection from the fallen-angels. We, the devils, have been fighting against them for a very long time. They come to destroy us with the power of light received from the angels, and with their physical bodies that they trained to the uttermost limits.”

Then I remembered the crazy priest guy from before. He was a crazy exorcist with white hair. He not only kills devils but also those who have connections to a devil. To tell the truth, I don’t want to meet him ever again. While I was thinking about it, Asia took out loads of stuff from her bag. Buchou picked up a small bottle with water inside it with her fingers and was holding it as if she was touching something disgusting.

“Now I will talk about the traits of holy water and the Bible. First of all, holy water. It will be very terrible if a devil touches it.”

“Yes, that’s true. So you can’t touch it as well, Asia. Your skin will get harmed.”

“Sob.....that’s right..... I can’t touch holy water anymore.”

Asia was shocked after hearing Buchou’s comment. Well she is a devil after all.

“I will tell you how to make one afterwards. I don’t know if it will be useful but there are a couple of ways to make them.”

Asia continued to talk energetically because it was her strong field. Yo, devil priestess! If I say something like that she probably would cry so I shouldn’t say it.

“Next is the Bible. I have been reading it every day since I was a child. But I’m in trouble now because it gives me a pain in the head even if I only read a sentence of it.”

“That’s because you are a devil.”

“You are a devil.”

“.....Devil.”

“Ufufufu, devil’s receive intense damage.”

“Sob..... I can’t read the Bible anymore!”

Asia started to have teary eyes after everyone pointed it out to her.

I heard from Buchou before. We devils suffer greatly if someone reads out the bible to us. I haven’t experienced it yet, but I would probably suffer because of boredom if someone read it out to me. But then it means Asia has been reading the Bible. If she continues she might die!

“But this is my favourite phrase.... Oh God. Please forgive a sinful person like myself who can’t read the Bible.....Ouch!”

There she goes again. She received damage again by praying to God. Please God, just ignore this child’s prayer. Like this we finished our morning study session, and then moved onto training.

There were a few things I found out while training like this with everyone. I have no talent in using swords. I have no talent in martial arts. I have no talent in using magic. And the most crucial one is that I am insanely weak. I realized how weak I am the more I trained with the others.

I won’t be useful in the game. I don’t have a healing ability like Asia. What I’m doing alright is peeling off the vegetables. Well this is also a part of the training. I’m.....so weak and useless.....

That night at the mansion.

I was looking at the ceiling while lying down on my bed. It had been a week since we came to the mountains. I had been training and training every day. We also repeated different battle formations and combinations for the upcoming game. I looked at Kiba who was sleeping. He was sleeping peacefully.

.....Kiba is amazing. I realized the difference between us the more we trained together. I would probably not beat Kiba in a sword fight ever. It's the skill he attained with his own talent and loads of training where he almost died. I don't have either. If I train hard from now on, will I be as strong as Kiba? After how many years will that be? Or after how many decades? No, maybe forever. I..... In magic training, Asia kept on improving her magic. She started to master using fire, water and lightning. But me, right now, I could only make a magic block which had the size of a grain of rice. I..... Shit! I couldn't keep on lying down so I got up from the bed. I then headed towards the kitchen. I drank a cup of water.

“Ara? You awake?”

Buchou's voice came from the living room. When I looked, Buchou was sitting where the table was.

“Ah, Buchou. Hello.”

“Why are you so stiff? Good timing, let's talk for a bit.”

The faint light from the candle made the table visible. Devils can see at night, even if there are no lights. Thanks to that, we were able to train even at night. Then this candle was used probably for looks then. I then sat opposite of Buchou. Buchou was wearing a red negligee while wearing glasses and tying her crimson hair into one.

“Huh? Buchou, do you have bad eyesight?”

“Oh this? It's just for looks. I can think more clearly while having my glasses on. Fufufu, this is the proof that I have been in the human's world for so long.”

Buchou made a chuckle. Even Buchou with glasses looked beautiful..... More like her negligee also looked great! On the table there were loads of paper which seemed like a map and battle formation..... Was she making a plan by herself at night? Buchou then closed the strategy notebook.

“.....To tell you the truth, reading this won't help me at all.”

Buchou said it while making a sigh.

“Why is that?”

“If the opponent is another high-class devil, then we could fight by reading this. This book is written with lots of research. But the problem isn't that.”

“? Then what's wrong?”

“Raiser himself. No, the problem is that our opponent is Phenex.”

Buchou took out a book after answering me and put it on the table. She then pointed out at an opened page. There was a picture of a fire bird with its wings spread wide open.

“A long time ago the mystical beast, Phoenix, was looked upon by humans as a bird that represents life. The tears of the phoenix can heal any wounds, and the blood which flows within its body can give eternal youth to those that drink it. It became a legend and that’s how it’s told in the human world.”

But there was also another clan that was different from the mystical beast phoenix. They were the devils that had the rank of Duke, and were counted as one of the “72 pillars”. The “Phoenix” from the devils' side.

“The humans gave a different name to the devils' phoenix to distinguish it from the mystical beast phoenix. They gave them the name “Phenex”. But the mystical beast phoenix has the same ability as Raiser’s clan. In other words immortality. We need to fight someone like that.”

Immortal!? Wa..wait! Then!

“That’s cheating! I mean immortal!? That’s basically invincible!”

“Yes. They are basically invincible. Even if you attack them, their wounds will heal right away. Their flames won’t even leave a bone left. This is the record that Raiser has at the Rating Game. 8 wins and 2 losses. This is the official record of Raiser’s Rating game results. He fought 10 times and won 8 matches. He lost 2 of the match on purpose as kindness to one of the households he is close to. In other words he won most of his games. He already became a candidate to obtain a title in the official game.”

.....Wha..... I lost the words from my mouth. I now know what Buchou meant by “problem”. It’s Raiser! She was thinking of a way to beat that bastard!

“I felt something uneasy when I heard that Raiser was chosen as my fiancé. Yes, I think otou-sama and the others chose him in case something like this were to happen. They chose Raiser so I will have no choice left. Even if it becomes a match between households, they knew that there was no way for me to win.”

No matter how strong Buchou is, her parents knew that there was no way that that Buchou could beat someone immortal. That’s unfair! Then no matter whose daughter it is, they can’t avoid getting married.

“When the Rating Game became popular, the ones who rose the most is the house of the Phenex. There weren’t that many battles among devils until the game was introduced. In a game where the “King” also participates, the strength of Phenex became more clear. The house of Phenex is the leading group in the ultimate class. Immortal. Devils realized how terrifying this power was for the first time.”

If they are immortal, then they can resurrect no matter how many times they are defeated. The other devils have limits to their powers unlike the Phenex, and once we get tired they will use that as a chance and defeat us. Wow. They would be so insanely strong that it's unfair! And that is our opponent... Even if we defeat Raiser's bishoujo army, it doesn't mean anything if we don't defeat Raiser. Can we even defeat him? It won't be a fight where they planned to cheat to beat us, would it? Buchou made a chuckle after looking at my face.

"You know, it's not like we can't defeat Raiser?"

"Are you serious!?"

"Yes. There are two ways you can defeat him. One is to beat him down with incredible power and the other one is to keep on taking him down until he loses the will to fight. The first method requires the strength of a God. The second one is to save our stamina until Raiser loses his will to fight. If we can crush the soul of Phenex, then it's our win. Then their resurrection will stop and they will fall. Well, the easiest way is to defeat him with a power that is on par with God that crushes him down with one strike."

.....Won't both methods need a lot of effort to pull off? Is it even possible to do something like that in our first battle? No, we have to. In other words we have to fight until he says "I resurrected so much that I lost the will to fight so please forgive me". Oh yeah. There was one thing that I was wondering about so I will ask Buchou now.

"Buchou."

"What is it?"

"Why do you hate Raiser....? No, why are you against the marriage?"

Buchou made a sigh with my question. Certainly Raiser was a womaniser and seemed like scum. But if you think about Buchou's houses problem it's hard to deny the marriage.

".....I'm a "Gremory"."

"Huh? Ummm, yeah....."

"No. I didn't re-introduce myself. I'm a person from the house of Gremory, and that name will follow me to wherever."

Oh, I think I get it.

"Do you hate it?"

"I'm proud of it. But it's also something that is a burden to me. Everyone looks at me as Rias from the Gremory. They don't look at me as Rias. That's why I'm enjoying my life in the human world. They don't know that I'm a devil from the Gremory. Everyone looks at me as Rias. I

really like that feeling. I never felt something like that in the devils' society, and I never will. The only time I feel like myself is when I'm in the human world."

Buchou had a distant look. She also had very sad eyes. She told me a story that I could never imagine. I'm Hyoudou Issei, and I never felt anything to my name. I am "me". I'm just the son of mum and dad. Right now, wherever I go, people look at me as "Hyoudou Issei" as an individual. Buchou had been spending her life with the name of Gremory on the line. That would be the same from now on.

"I want to be with someone who will love me as Rias. That's my small dream.... Unfortunately, Raiser only looks at me as Rias from the Gremory. And he loves me as Rias from Gremory. That's why I hate it. But still, the pride of being a Gremory is very important. It might be a complicated situation, but I want to cherish this small dream I have."

So Buchou wanted to be loved as "Rias" and not as "Rias Gremory" from the opposite sex..... A girl's feelings huh. But Buchou also must feel complicated because of her house's problems. I don't understand both the feelings of a girl and the structure of the devils' society. So I don't know what to say to her. But.....

"I like Buchou as Buchou."

I just said what I thought. But Buchou stared at me in wonder.

"I don't know anything about Gremory or about the devils' world, but to me Rias-buchou is Rias-buchou..... Nnuuuu, I don't understand all the complicated stuff but to me the usual Buchou is the best!"

I said everything I could think of with a smile. Hahaha, I totally suck at cheering up people.....Huh? Buchou-sama? I don't know why but Buchou's cheeks started to get red.

"Bu....Buchou? Did I say something weird?"

I asked her with a dubious voice, but Buchou shook her head.

"No...nothing! It's nothing!"

She was in panic. What? Did something happen? Well, I'll leave that aside.

"But the opponent for the genius Buchou, someone like that is a hard obstacle, isn't it?"

"I don't actually like the word "genius"?"

Buchou answered me still with a red face.

"Why is that?"

“A talent that is given by heaven..... It seems like it’s a gift given by God so I don’t feel good. My talent is born from the roots of the Gremory which has been passed down to the generations. I inherited that trait as a devil. I never thought that I received it as a gift from God, and that’s impossible. My power belongs to me and the house of Gremory. That’s why I won’t lose. I will win if I have to fight. I have to win.”

Buchou said it to me as if she was saying it to herself. Amazing. Buchou is really strong. Compared to that I.....

“Buchou, I’m worthless. I have been useless since I got here.....”

After I said it in a weak voice, Buchou made a worried expression.

“Ise?”

“I think I’ve gotten stronger since I came here and trained with everyone, but more than that..... I felt the difference between us. If I do sword training, I realized how strong Kiba is and realized that I won’t become a swordsman like Kiba..... When I do the magic training, I realize how superior Akeno-san is while Asia is improving her magic..... And I can’t do anything..... I was acting strong because I have the Boosted Gear.....”

Unexpected amounts of tears were flowing out from my eyes. I was regretting so much. The more I trained, the more I realized how weak I am. I have no talent for battle. I realized it.

“I found out that I was the weakest..... I also found out that I’m the most useless..... I realized it means nothing if I’m the one with the ultimate Sacred Gear. That’s why I was laughed at by Raiser back then. “Pearl before swine”. It’s a fitting phrase for me.”

I started shedding lots of tears in front of Buchou. I was crying with regret miserably in front of Buchou. My nose was even dripping. Buchou stood up and sat next to me.

HUG

Buchou hugged me gently. She started patting my head lots of times.

“You want confidence, right? Okay. I will give you confidence. But now, you have to rest your body and soul. I will be with you until you feel like sleeping.”

That time I didn’t know what she meant. But Buchou’s warmth was healing my soul. That was enough for now.

“Use your Boosted Gear, Ise.”

Next day.

Buchou said it to me before the start of the training. I was allowed to activate my Sacred Gear which I was forbidden to use since I got to the mountains. I was allowed to use it now....but what was I supposed to do with it?

“The opponent will be Yuuto.”

“Yes.”

Kiba came forward after Buchou ordered him. He then stood in front of me. What!? I have to fight Kiba!?

“Ise, activate your Sacred Gear before the spar. Yes..... Start the fight two minutes after you activate your Sacred Gear.”

“Y...yes.”

I made my Boosted Gear appear on my left arm just like Buchou ordered me to.

“Boost!”

[BOOST!!]

The Sacred Gear made a sound after my words, and I felt power going through my body. With this my power was doubled.

After ten seconds.

[BOOST!!]

My power doubled again. I felt the Sacred Gear giving more power to my body. It's alright that my power is getting doubled, but there are things that I need to keep in mind when I use my “Boosted Gear”. I thought there were no limits to my powers, but that was not the case. Once I activated my Boosted Gear to see how far I could increase my power but after a few minutes I fainted. The reason was simple. My body couldn't handle the power when it increased. Then afterwards I asked Buchou and she said,

“For example think that you are a truck. If you carry more package than the truck can carry what would happen? It won't move right? That's how it is.”

The package equals my powers that are doubling. If the quantity of package keeps on doubling, then the truck will decrease in speed and by the end it won't move. So in other words if the power gets too big, then it puts stress on my body. That's why I fainted. My body which is a vessel couldn't withstand the increased power. That's what happened when I activated it for a few minutes. The jewel in the gauntlet made a sound [Burst], then my body felt heavier and it

felt like all my senses froze. Even if there is no limits to the Sacred Gear, the user which is me does have limits. That's my Sacred Gear's weakness. Well, it's more like my weakness. It's not the Sacred Gear's fault. I made the 20th power up after Buchou ordered me to power up. Then Buchou ordered me to stop my Sacred Gear.

“Let's go Boosted Gear!”

[Explosion!!]

This sound also represents the stop of the power up and acts as a stopper. Once the power up stops, I can fight with that power for a certain time. The length of time I can use it depends on my action during the power up. The more I move, and the more I attack, it minimizes the time. This also affects my stamina, and if I'm in a tired state, then the time will also be shorter. One of the ways to use this Sacred Gear is that I don't receive any damage. So right now where I have no damage and have full stamina is the best time to use it. My power is growing while it's getting a boost, but it is unstable compared to the time when I stop the boost to use the power up for a limited time. If I move around too much, there are risks that it might change me back to my normal self. So it's better to stop the boost then use the power up. It would also be wise to run around and hide while getting a boost. Now, my body is in an unthinkable state because of the two minutes boost. The power I feel within my body isn't normal.

“Ise, I want you to fight Yuuto in that state. Yuuto, I will leave you to be his opponent.”

“Yes, Buchou.”

Kiba made his stance by pointing his bokuto toward me after Buchou ordered him.

“Ise. Do you want to use a sword? Or do you want to fight with bare hands?”

Buchou asked me my battling style. Ummmm, even if I have a bokuto, I won't be able to use it.....

“I will fight bare handed!”

“Okay. Then both of you start.”

I also made a stance against Kiba. Well it's a newbie's stance.

SWISH

Kiba disappeared from my sight! Shit! The trait of “Knight” is speed! Kiba has God speed! Once I lose sight of him, I will receive the attack.....

BANG!

Kiba's swing came down at me, but I guarded it by using my arm. Yes! I can withstand this!

“!”

Kiba made a shocked expression. He let his guard down! I punched towards Kiba who stopped moving.

SWIFT

Kiba's body disappeared just before I hit him, and my punches cut through the air. Crap! He dodged it! Where's Kiba? I tried to chase him by looking around. He's gone....! If he isn't in front of me or to my left or right, then he's behind me! But when I turned around, I couldn't see Kiba.

! Above me!? When I looked up, Kiba was coming down with his bokuto aimed downwards.

BANG!

I heard a nasty sound! Guhaaa! I received a blow on my head. It hurts!

“Ouch.....”

I didn't have time to touch the part I was hit and I kicked towards Kiba who just landed on the ground.

SWISH!

He dodged it again! Shit! It won't hit at all! If my opponent is a “Knight”, then will I have a hard time with their speed!?

“Is! Shoot with block of magic! When you form a block of magic, shoot it with a shape you imagine the most!”

Buchou gave me an order. A block of magic? Me? Right now? I don't know if it will hit but there's no other choice! I will obey Buchou's order. I gathered the magic flowing within my body and concentrated it into my hands. There was a block of magic which was the size of a rice ball. Small like usual! I then shot it towards Kiba! Then I couldn't believe what I saw.

GUOOOOOOOOO!!

It's huge! The magic ball which had the size of a rice ball got bigger when I shot it! It reached the size of a huge rock! This!? I get it! It's the power of the Boosted Gear! The huge block of magic got closer to Kiba. The velocity was quite fast as well.

SWISH.

Kiba dodged it easily. Well that's not surprising. But it won't mean anything if it doesn't hit. That's what I thought, but soon I got rid of that thought. The magic ball which missed its target went towards the mountain next to the one we were on.

BAAAAAAAANG!!!

The mountain blew up while making a huge sound and blast!! Huh? Huh!? Huuuuh!!?

.....The magic ball I just shot blew away a single mountain..... The mountain had a hole in it. It changed the view of it.

.....Huh? Are you for real? It actually blew it up? It's a mountain, you know? A mountain. Because of the sudden turn of events, I didn't know what to say.

[Reset]

The gauntlet made a sound and I also felt the power leaving my body at the same time. Looks like the time I'm powered up for is finished. Then I felt my body lose strength. It felt like my insides became empty. Seems like I used up my magical energy.

"The spar is over."

Buchou stopped me and Kiba's spar. Kiba also put his bokuto down. I also sat on the floor. The mountain disappeared..... My heart was beating with that fact. Did I do that...? I still can't believe it. An attack like that actually came out from my hand.....

"Good job you two. Now I will hear your impression. Kiba. How was it?"

Kiba answered Buchou's question.

"Yes. To tell the truth I'm astonished. I tried to finish the spar with the first strike."

Huh? First strike? The one I was able to block?

"But I couldn't break through Ise-kun's guard. I was focused into breaking through it. I also tried to knock him down in my second strike by hitting his head from above the air, but that failed as well. Hahahaha"

Kiba answered it while laughing. Kiba put his bokuto to the front to show it to everyone.

.....That bokuto was already broken.

"I strengthened the bokuto with magical energy, but it couldn't give that much damage to Ise-kun because his body was too hard. If we continued, I would only have the option to run around because my bokuto is broken."

“Thank you Yuuto. That’s how it is, Ise.”

That’s how it is....? Was this the thing she told me yesterday? The way she will give me confidence.

“Ise. You said to me that you were the weakest and you had no talent, right?”

“Y...yes.”

“That’s half correct. You, who hasn’t activated your Sacred Gear, is weak. But you become a totally different person if you use the power of the Boosted Gear.”

Buchou pointed at the mountain which was blown away.

“That attack is one of a high-class devil. If that hits, most beings will be blown away.”

Are you serious!? Well it certainly does seem like an attack which could blow most beings.

“Your body which went through basic training became a vessel which can handle a Sacred Gear which increases the power drastically. Even now, your body is strong enough to handle the power increase. See? I told you before, right? You can become the ultimate as long as you improve your basics. The higher your initial strength is, the more the power can increase. The basic stamina rises from “1” to “2”. Even something like that would become a big factor for you to become strong.”

....My power is amazing.....? I still couldn’t believe in myself and Buchou said it with pride and confidence to me.

“You are the key to the game. Ise’s attack becomes the factor which decides the outcome of the battle. If it was only you fighting, then it would be scary because you would have your guard down while powering up. But this battle is a team battle. There are those who will support you. Trust in us. Then, you will become strong. So do we. We can win!”

Become stronger....? Me?

“Let’s show it to those that looked down on you. It doesn’t matter if the opponent is Phenex or not. We need to show them how strong Rias Gremory and her servants are!”

“[Yes!]”

Everyone replied to her with a strong voice. Yes! I have Buchou and everyone with me! I will become strong! I will become strong along with everyone! I will defeat Raiser Phenex!

After having new-found determination, the mountain training went through smoothly. Then we reached the day for the decisive battle.

Life 4: Beginning of the decisive battle

Part 1

On the day of the decisive battle.

“I’m ready.”

I was getting fired up in my room. Right now it’s 10 o’clock at night. The battle starts after 2 hours. Just from midnight. Today our job as a devil is off. We were told to go home straight after school because we may end up using our stamina unnecessarily. We plan to meet up at the club room 30 minutes prior to the match, so I can only stay here for about 90 minutes. But still I feel the most relaxed here. So I want to stay here as long as I can. If I go there I would feel nervous. Whether I like it or not, I feel more nervous than the time I was waiting for my entrance exam results to our academy..... I’m heading for the battle in my uniform. I thought this would be the most fitting clothing. Or should I dress up in a battle uniform? I asked that to Buchou.

“If my group has a uniform, then it has to be that of our academy. Since we are the members of the occult research club.”

Buchou replied like that to me with a smile. Well, if I was doing martial arts I could have prepared a dougi. There are lots of banana peels near me, because I ate all of them. I almost completed “that technique” that I have been practicing. I can do it. I can do it! My new ultimate technique!

[KNOCK] [KNOCK]

Someone knocked on the door. Hmmm? Is it Asia?

“Ise-san, may I come in?”

“Yeah, come in.”

I was a bit shocked when I saw how Asia was dressed when she came in. That’s because she was wearing a nun outfit. Obviously she didn’t have her Rosario hanging around her neck. She also didn’t have her veil on her head.

“Asia that outfit.....”

“Y...yes. When I asked Buchou-san she told me to wear something that I feel the most comfortable in. I thought about it a lot, and I found out that this outfit is the easiest for me to move around in..... I’m not a Christian anymore, but I haven’t forgotten my beliefs. Even though I’m a devil now.....”

Is that so..... This girl thought deeply about it as well..... I'm sure that you need a lot of guts to appear in a nun's outfit for a battle between devils, but if that's what Asia chose then I don't have any complaints. Buchou will also allow it with a smile.

"Yeah. You look the most natural in a nun's outfit. You also look good in our school uniform, but you were dressed in that outfit when I first met you. Yeah, you look great."

"Thank you very much."

Asia made a very happy face when I praised her.

"Um..ummmm, Ise-san?"

Asia suddenly became hesitant.

"Can I stay beside you?"

"Y...yeah. Sure."

I was sitting on my bed and Asia sat next to me. Then she hugged my hand.

"W....what's wrong?"

I panicked but I could feel her shaking.

".....I can't stop shaking when I think there is a scary battle waiting for us. But if Ise-san is with me, I will be okay."

"Asia....."

"Ehehehe. I'm not scared if I'm with Ise-san after all..... Can I stay like this until we leave?"

"Sure."

".....Can I stay with you forever from now on?"

"Yeah, we will always be together."

I held on to Asia's hand gently and we stayed like that until we left the house. After that I didn't feel nervous anymore and Asia stopped shaking.

Part 2

[11.40pm].

The other club members and I were gathered in the old school building. We were waiting in our most relaxing positions. Everyone except Asia was wearing their uniform. Kiba had a gauntlet on his hand and had some armor on his lower leg. He had his swords against the wall. Koneko-chan was sitting on the chair and was reading a book. On her hands she wore gloves that allows her fingers to be seen. It's one of those gloves that martial artists wear. It looks pretty intense if a girl with a loli face wears it. Akeno-san and Buchou wore it too and were drinking green tea elegantly. Just to be expected from our onee-samas..... Asia and I were sitting on the chair waiting quietly. Ten minutes prior to the match, the magic circle glowed and Grayfia-san appeared.....

“Is everyone ready? It's ten minutes before the match.”

Everyone stood up after Grayfia-san confirmed us. Grayfia-san then started explaining about the battle.

“When it'll be the time to start the battle, you will be transported to the battle field with this magic circle. The location of the place is in a different dimension used for battles. You may fight with all your power. It's a disposable space so feel free to fight to your satisfaction.”

Haaa..... Is that how it is? A battle purpose field, huh. So devils can prepare something like that as well. Indeed if we fight in the humans' world or devils' world, we can't avoid destruction and may cause lots of effects. Then it means that we need a place which won't harm anything no matter what we do. But leaving that aside, there's something that I'm concerned about.

“Ummm, Buchou?”

“What is it?”

“Buchou, you also have another “Bishop” right? Where is that person?”

Yes, that's what Buchou told me before she reincarnated Asia. She told me she has another “Bishop”. She told me that the “Bishop” is doing another mission, but it's weird that the “Bishop” isn't here in a situation like this. After I asked the question, everyone except me and Asia seemed weird. It seemed like I asked something I shouldn't have. It felt like the atmosphere changed. Every one kept their mouth closed.

“Unfortunately the other “Bishop” can't participate. I will talk about that in the near future.”

Buchou said it to me without looking at me in the eyes. Seems like there's something complicated about this matter. Maybe I should stop asking about this topic now. But what's so important that the “Bishop” can't appear for its master's important match? I couldn't get rid of my suspicions. Grayfia-san spoke in this weird atmosphere.

“This “Rating Game” battle will also be viewed by members of both households from a different location by broadcast.”

Are you serious? So they will be watching us. So they are going to view us like VIP members, huh. Seems like their parents are having fun. Since Buchou's parents are watching it as well I can't show them an unsightly scene.

"Also the "Maou Lucifer-sama" will also be viewing this battle. Please do not forget about it."

Maou!? Maou-sama!? Wow I'm feeling nervous. Even our king is looking at our match!? Is this match that important? Buchou then made a shocked face.

"Oni-sama is..... Is that so..... So Oni-sama is also going to view this battle."

Huh.....? I think I heard it wrong..... What did Buchou just say? O...Oni-sama.....? I got confused so I put my hand up and asked.

"Ummm..... Just now Buchou called Maou-sama "Oni-sama"..... Did I hear wrong?"

But Kiba answered me straight away.

"No. Buchou's Oni-sama is Maou-sama."

Wha.....

"Maou!?! Buchou's Oni-sama is Maou-sama!"

"Yes."

Buchou confirmed it straight away.

Are you serious!? Seriously!? No, wait. But Buchou is part of the "Gremory household" isn't she? I think her last name is different from any of the Maou's last name..... Lucifer, Beelzebub, Leviathan, and Asmodeus. It doesn't match with any of their last names.

"Are you confused because Buchou's family name is different to the family names of Maou-samas?"

Kiba guessed what I was thinking. It's a bummer but he had it correct.

"Yeah, that's it."

Kiba started to explain after I confirmed it.

"In the previous Great War, Maou-sama was in a critical condition and has passed away a long time ago. But there would be no devils if there isn't any Maou-sama. That's why...."

The devils decided to keep the names of the Maou and let it be inherited to the ones with enormous powers. So the current "Yondai-Maou (Four Great Satans)" are successors of the first

Maou who inherited their names. So that's how it is. Then "Lucifer" and "Beelzebub" isn't a personal name but more like a managerial position.

"To tell you the truth, out of the three factions of God, fallen-angels and devils, the devils have the least power. We are actually in a tight spot but we are still safe because Gen-Maou-sama (Current Satan) has a power equal to the Sendai-Maou-sama (Previous Satan)."

.....So the Devils' society is just somehow managing, huh..... I'm pretty shocked to hear that the Maou-samas that have their name in the Bible are already dead.....

"So Buchou's brother was chosen to be a Maou from the Ultimate-class devils then?"

Kiba nodded at my question.

"Sirzechs Lucifer is also known as "Crimson Satan". He is Buchou's Oni-sama and the most powerful Maou-sama."

Sirzechs Lucifer..... Not a "Gremory" but a "Lucifer"..... So he isn't referred by his family name anymore.

".....That's why Buchou has to inherit the house."

Her brother became a Maou. Then it can't be helped, since her brother has to carry the world of the devils on his back. Amazing. Even Buchou's family is amazing.....

"It's about time. Everyone to the magic circle."

We gathered to the magic circle after Grayfia-san urged us to.

"Also once you get transported, you cannot use the magic circle until the game ends."

So we return here only after the outcome. The magic circle's symbol changed to another one which is not that of the Gremory's and glowed. It's also not the symbol of Phenex. Maybe it's the one for the game? While I was thinking about it, the light covered us and the transportation started.

Part 3

.....When I opened my eyes.....Huh? I twitched my neck when I saw the view. Obviously. Because we were in the club room. Huh? Did the transport fail? But everyone besides me and Asia were composed and weren't even shocked about this situation. Also Grayfia-san was gone. Did she transport just by herself? Then....

[Hello everyone. I am Grayfia, a maid from the Gremory household. Today I will be the arbiter of the Rating match between the Gremory household and the Phenex household.]

School broadcast? It's Grayfia-san's voice.

{ In the name of my master, Sirzechs Lucifer, I will be keeping my eye on this match. By using both Rias-sama and Raiser-sama's opinion we created this battlefield. The battlefield for this match is a replica of the school Rias-sama attends to, the "Kuou Academy". }

What! Then this club room is a replica? It's exactly the same! It has exactly the same objects and the scratches on the wall! Oh but if I look out of the window, the sky is white. It has to be very dark since it's midnight. Did they make a replica in a world of white? But making a replica of our school in a different space..... How extraordinary can the power of devils be.....!?

{ The location where both teams were transported will be their base. Rias-sama's base would be the Occult research club room located in the old school building. Raiser-sama's base would be the student council's room located in the new building. For the "Pawns" to use "promotion", please go to the enemy's base. }

That's me! So I can't promote unless I go to the enemy's base. My "Pawns" trait, "promotion" is absolutely necessary. Similar to the actual chess, it's a special move you are able to do if the "Pawn" reaches the enemy's base. I can change into any pieces besides "King". So I have to reach the enemy's base no matter what. Student council, huh. It's in the corner of the highest floor in the school building. I have to head there! Like the opposite, Raiser's "Pawn" can promote if they get here. Unlike us, where I am the only "Pawn", they have 8 "Pawns". If they all turn into "Queen" then we are in deep shit!? "Queen" is the ultimate piece. We would be in danger if they were to promote. It's usual that they send the "Pawns" so they can take down each other. Then that means I have to take down 8 bishoujo "Pawns" by myself..... Man that's totally not good.....

"Everyone please put this transceiver in your ears."

Akeno-san gave everyone a earphone type transceiver. Buchou said that while outing it in her ears,

"In the battlefield we will be using this to communicate with each other."

So we receive the orders through this transceiver. It's an important equipment so I have to make sure I don't break it.

"Now it's the time for the commencement of the battle. Now this match will continue till dawn in the humans time. Then, Game start."

[RING]

The school bell rang. So this is the ring for the start of the match. Like this, our first “Rating Game” started!

Part 4

“First we have to take down Raiser’s “Pawn”. It will be troublesome if they all promotes into “Queen”.”

Buchou said it while sitting on the sofa. She was quite confident. Akeno-san started to prepare tea. Ummm, we are in a middle of a match you know.....?

“Buchou, you seem pretty calm.....”

“Ise, the battle just started. The “Rating Game” is originally a game that doesn’t finish in a short time. There are times when it becomes a “blitz”, but mostly it’s a game which takes very long. Just like the actual chess game.”

Is that how it’s played? I thought it would be like those battle you see in films..... I thought of those “Ultimate fight between monsters” types of things.

“The “Rating Game” has meaning only if you use the battlefield to the fullest. Usually the base would be a fortress, castle or a tower. There are forests and rivers between the two bases and we battle using those areas. This time the battlefield is the school. Yuuto.”

“Yes.”

Kiba spread a map after Buucho urged him to. Wow, the whole map of our school. It was divided into grids and there were English alphabets and numbers on it. Oh I get it. It’s broken in the same grid as in chess. Buchou circled the old school building and the new school building with a red pen. Oh I see. She marked our base and the enemy’s base.

“There’s a forest near our base. It’s safe to think that this is also our territory. In other words the new school building would be Raiser’s territory. Its likely that there will be an ambush when you enter their territory. The school field is visible from the new school building. So it’s dangerous to pass here.”

She was right, since the school field is visible from the new school building. Once we enter the battlefield it’s impossible to transport by magic circle. So it was impossible to transport from the old school building to the new school building. So we had to use our feet to move around then. Well we could use our wings to fly but we would become sitting ducks. Also I can’t fly yet.

“Then do we have to go through the sports ground to get to the new school building?”

Buchou chuckled at my question.

“Normally, yes. But the enemy will also know that. So he’ll have his servant at the sports ground.....He’ll have his “Knight” or “Rook” positioned in one of the club rooms located in the sports ground. No, if it’s a sports ground you will need a person with “mobility”. So he’ll have 1 “Knight” and 3 “Pawns”, a total of 4 servants positioned here. Then he’ll have control of the sports ground.”

Then Kiba said his thoughts.

“The gym near the old school building. Shouldn’t we occupy this location first? If we capture it here then we will have a route to the new school building. The gym is a passage to both of the buildings so we could also restrain the enemy.”

Buchou nodded at Kiba’s opinion.

“Yes, I also have the same opinion. First we will capture the gym..... In terms of location, the opponent may have his “Rook” positioned there. Since it’s inside a building, it would be better to use the “Rook” with destructive power over “Knight” with mobility.”

.....Wow. They started to talk about the strategy in a way that I don’t understand! W...well, I’ll just follow the order! I just need to make sure that I don’t cause any trouble for them.

“....Yuuto and Koneko. You two set a trap in the forest. Take another map with you and mark the places where you set the trap in. I will make a copy afterwards and give it to everyone.”

“Yes.”

“.....Roger.”

Koneko-chan and Kiba left the room straight away and took a map and a weird tool box with them.

“Everyone else will be on standby until they finish setting up the trap. Oh, Akeno.”

“Yes.”

“After Yuuto and Koneko return, can you cast illusions and mists around the forest and the sky? Of course, a trap that only reacts to Raiser’s group. The start of the match will be like that. We will have to move around during the mid-game, so I’ll leave the mists and illusions to you, Akeno.”

“I understand, Buchou.”

Akeno-san confirmed. The strategy had already begun. I didn’t know what Asia and I were supposed to do.

“Ummm.... Buchou? What am I supposed to do?”

I thought it was bad that I didn't do anything. I needed to do something!

“Yes. Ise, you are a “Pawn” so you have to use “promotion”.”

“Yes!”

I replied to her energetically. Buchou waved her hand towards me. Hmmm? What is it?

“Sit here.”

I sat next to Buchou because she told me to. She then pointed at her thighs.

“Lay down here.”

!Wait! Is that..... the legendary “Thigh pillow”!?I can really use her white thighs as a pillow!? That kind of thing is allowed!?

“I..I will be in your care!”

I unconsciously bowed my head to Buchou politely. Gulp..... I started to put my head on Buchou's thigh slowly while drinking down my spit.

[TOUCH]

I felt a really soft sensation on my cheek. Ohhhhhhhh!! Why are you so soft, Buchou!! My head is about to explode because I'm having lots of physical contact with Buchou!! Her actions towards me are too great for someone like me who is going through that age! I want to grind my cheek on her thigh, but I think my heart will stop!

“Uuuu...sob.”

I had tears on my eyes. Thigh pillow. Out of all the things I want to get done by a girl, it's definitely in the “Top 10”. And...right now.....it became a reality..... Tears were falling from my eyes. What am I doing in the middle of an important match.... But a perverted student like myself who had no luck with girls getting this sweet treatment..... Oh....mum and dad.....thanks for giving birth to me! Buchou made a sigh while looking at me.

“Geez. Why are you crying?”



“Getting a “thigh pillow” from Buchou.... I’m so moved that the tears won’t stop. I will never forget this sensation. Sob....I’m happy that I was born.”

“If it’s just “thigh pillow”, then I will give it to you again. You seriously are an overreacting boy.”

What! Absurd!? You will!? Why is Buchou so nice to me!? No, that’s not important now! So something like that is possible! Yes, I’ll ask her myself next time! Ah, my school life is so wonderful! I’m totally in a league over Motohama and Matsuda! Now I feel sorry for them. I just need to hope that their life will get better. Huh!? Asia was looking at me with teary eyes. And she was making a weird face. Huh? Is she mad? Why? She looked very unpleasant.....

[TOUCH]

Buchou then put her hand on my forehead.

“.....I unlocked a seal that I had cast on you.”

“Huh? Seal?”

When I was wondering, I felt a change inside my body.

[Heartbeat]

Then I felt a power growing within me. What is this? Amazing. It felt different than the power up that I get from my Boosted Gear. If that was a power I received from elsewhere, then this power up was coming from within me and it felt comfortable. What is this? Buchou then said that to my ears:

“Do you remember? The talk about where I used all my 8 pieces of “Pawns” to reincarnate you?”

“Yes.”

“At that time, your strength as a devil was low so I had to put a limit on your power as a “Pawn”. You, who just reincarnated from human, didn’t have a body that could endure the power of 8 pieces of “Pawns”. To put it simply, you would be the strongest after Akeno. So you needed to attain more power or else your body would break. So I just unsealed a bit of the seal.”

So there was actually a meaning to that harsh training! I’m glad that I went through that training by training hard!

[PAT]~[PAT]

Buchou then started to pat my head. Ahhh....it feels so nice to have Onee-sama pat my head. Is it me or is Asia looking at me with sharp eyes?

“Ise. You have to beat your opponent even if they are girls, okay? You can’t hold back. They won’t hold back against you.”

“Y...yes, I understand!”

“That’s a good boy. Use the “promotion” to change into “Queen”. The battle will change if you promote into the ultimate “Queen”.”

“But it feels weird for me, who is a guy to turn into a “Queen”.”

Buchou made a small laugh at my opinion.

“It’s just a name for a role in chess, so you don’t have to think too deeply about it. We are already at a disadvantage by having less members than Raiser. So you have to prepare yourself to work over the limit. If we lose even a single person, our situation will get even harder.”

Buchou already thought about our roles carefully and had already made a plan for our move..... If I charge up my magic power with my Sacred Gear and shoot it to the new school building..... It won’t be simple like that right? The opponent also knew about things like that and probably has counter measures for that kind of situation. Also there is a limit to my power boost attack. Also I’m bad at using magic and I can’t waste it. If I were to do it, it would be safer to promote to “Queen” before, which would guarantee the power of the attack. Yeah, I will just go forward believing in Buchou and my comrades!

“Buchou! I will definitely make you win!”

That’s what I thought from the bottom of my heart. My true feeling. Yes, it’s better to tell her your actual feelings. Buchou smiled at me after I told her.

“Yes, I will be relying on you. My cute, Ise.”

I will definitely make Buchou win! I won’t give Buchou to a jerk like that! Like that I was having fun with Buchou’s thigh until Kiba and Koneko got back. Like that my strength went to its max!

Part 5

“Osu!”

I raised my spirit in front of the old school building. Next to me was Koneko-chan. She was my partner for the next plan.

“Alright Ise, Koneko. You won’t be able to avoid the battle once you get into the gym. Move accordingly like we discussed. That location will be an important place.”

Buchou send us off till the entrance. Koneko-chan nodded at Buchou.

“Yes, I will.”

Our target was the gym. We needed to win the battle that was waiting for us there. The only pieces moving was me and Koneko-chan. We were not allowed to fail. Yeah we couldn't lose. I couldn't retire without even using “promotion”!

“Then I will be going as well.”

Kiba put his sword into its sheath and got ready to go.

“Yuuto, move accordingly like we discussed.”

“Affirmative.”

“Asia will be on standby with me. But we will be going after we get a signal from Ise and the others. You cannot be taken down, definitely. It will be over if we lose our healer.”

“Y...yes!”

Asia replied energetically even though she was nervous. Because of her ability we could move recklessly in our strategy. Our winning factor was to protect our “King”(Buchou), and Asia.

“Akeno, I trust you to move when you think it's the right time.”

“Yes, Buchou.”

The ultimate servant, Akeno-san. Buchou said the outcome will be decided with her move. I will be relying on your ultimate move hidden behind that smiling face! Buchou stepped forward after she confirmed the plan.

“Now my adorable servants. Are you ready? We can't turn back now. Our enemy is Raiser, who is said to be a genius from the house of the immortal Phenex with a promised career. Now! Let's blow them into pieces!”

“[Yes!]”

All of us replied together and headed off! Me, Koneko-chan and Kiba left the old school building!

“Ise-san! Everyone! Please do your best!”

I could hear Asia cheering for us from behind. We raised our hand and waved at her. Now, there's no more turning back Hyoudou Issei! I will have to be resolved and move straight ahead! We ran towards the gym. During our way towards the gym, Kiba left us to go in a different direction. It was in the plan that Kiba would leave us at that part.

“Then I will be waiting for you ahead!”

“Yeah. You just do that!”

We split up after saying our good byes. He will do his job, and I will do mine! I went towards the gym along with Koneko-chan. The main entrance is connected to the new school building so we couldn't enter from there. That's because we would have been caught coming in. We needed to go in from the other door located on the opposite side of the gym. We went there and grabbed the door knob. It was open. It was not locked. But this gym.....it looked exactly the same as the actual thing. It was the same with the old school building. Even if they had told us that we were fighting in the actual Kuou academy, I would have believed it. We came into the back platform when we entered from the back door. Since the curtain wasn't down, the inside was visible. I tried to look at the court from the corner of the platform, and Koneko-chan spoke:

“.....Presence. Enemy.”

! I heard a loud voice before I got shocked.

“We know you are there, servants of Gremory! We saw you coming inside.”

The voice of a woman. Raiser's servant! So they saw us coming inside! Then there was no point hiding. Koneko-chan and I showed ourselves to them. In the court there were four female devils. The woman with a china dress, the twins and..... the loli-shoujo who knocked me down with a stick. I never expected to see her this early..... If I remember, the woman with the china dress is “Rook”. The twins are “Pawn”. And the stick girl is also “Pawn”. Before I came here, we were shown the photos of the enemy at the club room. 3 “Pawns” and 1 “Rook”..... We also had the same pieces here, but their number was the double of ours. But because of the plan, we couldn't avoid this battle.

“Boosted Gear, standby.”

[Boost!!]

The doubling power began. Yeah! I'm going to do it!

“.....Ise-senpai. I will leave the “Pawn” to you. I will take care of the “Rook”.”

“Yeah!”

Koneko-chan and I stood in front of our opponents. The china dress woman made a kung-fun stance and the small girl made a stance with her stick. Lastly the twin girls grabbed their chainsaws and..... Huh, chainsaw!?

DRIL! DRIL! DRIL! DRIL!

The chainsaws started while making a dangerous sound.

Oi! Are you serious! Girls aren't allowed to carry dangerous things like that!

“Disassembling time.”

Both of the twins said that happily! Hey! You can't say things like that with a happy face! More like I don't want to be disassembled! It will be bad if I get hit by the chainsaws!

BANG! BANG!

Koneko-chan and china dress woman had already begun their fight a bit further from us. It looked like a martial arts match because of all the punches! Each hits looked powerful because both of them were “Rooks”. I thought Koneko-chan was at an advantage because of her small build, which allows her to move more freely. But the china dress woman was also moving a lot with tricky attacks.

SWISH

The girl with the stick cut the wind making a sound. I think her name was Mira. Then I had a nasty flashback. I acted all mighty and ended up getting hit by that stick without doing anything..... I didn't want to lose again!

“Split, split, split, split, split!”

The twins came right at me while grinding their chainsaws to the floor! The chainsaws were making sparkles and they swung them at me!

[DRILL]!!

I heard a nasty sound near my ear. Wow! That was dangerous! I was able to barely dodge it! I shoulder tackled one of the twins and put some distance between us. If it was a simple move like this, then the Boosted Gear wouldn't be reset. If I got too cocky and attacked too much, the power would go back to the beginning again!

[SWISH].

I heard a sound behind me.

“Wow!”

I also barely dodged this attack. The stick passed through my armpit! It was an attack from the girl called Mira! This time I dodged it! My body could move more than I thought! It was because of the training and also because Buchou unsealed some of the power of the “Pawn” pieces inside me! I could do it! I could do this! I had confidence in my own power. When I showed confidence, the chainsaw touched my cheek! From the pain I felt, it was certainly bleeding. When I looked, my uniform was cut in different places. Uuu...looks like I'm in a pretty dangerous situation.

[Boost!!]

The second power up.

The girls didn't hesitate to attack me during the boost! But... Yo! Haa! I dodged the attack from the air by moving my body to the side and I was jumping or bending down when there were attacks coming from the side! I guarded the attacks of the stick which were coming directly from the front! Yeah! I evaded their attacks! How's this damn it!?

“Ahhh! I'm mad!”

“Why isn't it hitting!?”

The twins seemed pissed.

“.....I can't break through his guard.”

Looks like the stick girl was also irritated that her attacks weren't hitting me. Too bad. I trained like hell as well. I won't be able to face Buchou and the others if I lose in a place like this!

[Boost!!]

Here comes my third boost! Here it is!

“Let's do it, my Sacred Gear-kun!”

[Explosion!!]

I will fight them in this state! I felt power going through my body! A boost for a limited time! I won't waste it even for a bit!

“First of all!”

I ran towards one of the twins. Fast! It may be weird coming from me but my dash was quite fast! The target couldn't react to my movements even for a moment. She swung her chainsaw after she understood the situation, but my fist had already reached her!

[BANG!]

One of the twins went flying with my hit.

“You! How dare you! To my onee-chan!”

The little sister of the girl I just hit put her chainsaw towards me, but I twisted my body and hit the girl! The little sister of the twins fell down on the floor.

“Haa!”

The stick girl with loli face thrust her stick towards me! It’s here!

“Daa!”

[BREAK!]

I cut down her stick with my hand. Ouch! It was harder than I thought! I hit the girl who just lost her weapon!

“Kyaaa!”

The shoujo rolled on the floor while making a scream.

“Ku!”

The sound of the china dress woman. When I looked, the china dress woman had her hands on the floor and Koneko-chan was still maintaining her fighting stance. Wow. Even from the looks of it, it was obvious that Koneko-chan was at an advantage.

“Geez! If we lose to a guy like him, Raiser-sama will get mad at us!”

One of the chainsaw girls fixed her position and made a negative comment.

“We will definitely cut you into pieces!”

The twins turned on their chainsaws again. Fufufu. Now is the only time where you can be so energetic. I already accomplished the necessary conditions for my ultimate technique.

“Take this! My new ultimate technique! Dress Break!”

[CLICK]

I clicked my fingers. At the same time the chainsaw twins and stick girl's clothes blew away. Yes, even their underwear were in pieces! The white curvy bodies of the girls were exposed right in front of me. Wow. All three of them still needed to grow a bit more, but this was also quite....! Buhaa! I was grinning widely but lots of blood were flowing out of my nose.

“N....noooooooooooooooooooooo!!”

Their screams echoed inside the gym. All three of them bended down to the floor and hid their private parts.

“Ahahahaha! How is it!? This is my technique! And the name is “Dress Break”! I just kept on imaging the girl’s clothes getting blown away into pieces! I spent all of my magic talent into making all of the girls naked!”

Yes, I spent all of my efforts on magic training for this technique. I never had talent at using magic in the first place. So I just turned what I’m good at imagining into reality. I spent all my efforts into this. This was all for the image I was currently seeing! Hahaha, look! I stripped the girls naked! That’s why I peeled all the fruits and vegetables with not my hands or a knife but with magic only! I stripped the fruits skin till I would lose my mind. The activation requirement is that I have to touch them. Then I send them my magical power after I think about it. Then this is the result.

“You are really low! Enemy of every woman!”

“Beast! You sex fiend!”

The chainsaw twins started to bad mouth me with teary eyes. I will accept those words.

“.....I misjudged you.”

[STAB].

I heard Koneko-chan, who was away from me, saying that. Her words stabbed my heart..... Then I heard a sound from the transceiver.

[Ise, Koneko. Can you hear me? It’s me.]

Bucho’s voice. It seemed like Koneko-chan had also heard it.

“Yes! Both Koneko-chan and I are safe! More like we are in a good situation right now!”

[That’s good to hear. But Akeno is also ready! I want you two to move accordingly to the plan!]

Buchou’s order! I nodded after exchanging a glance with Koneko-chan.

[DASH].

Koneko-chan and I went to the central entrance, ignoring the girls.

“Are you running away!? This location is supposed to be an important place!”

Raiser’s servants became shocked by our actions. Yeah, you are right. This is an important place. A location which connects the old school building and the new school building. In chess, it would be the “center”. It’s apparently very important. That’s why both of the groups sent their pieces here! To take this place! That’s why there is a meaning to this! That’s why we made this place the decoy! Koneko-chan and I left from the central entrance.

FLASH

Then there was a lightning flash.

GOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!

A big lightning fell down onto the gym with a big noise. When the lightning stopped, the gym was totally wiped out.

“Take this.”

Akeno-san’s voice. When I turned around a smiley faced Akeno-san was flying through the air with her black wings spread. She had her right hand raised upwards. There was electricity in her hand.

[Raiser Phenex-sama’s 3 “Pawn” and 1 “Rook” are defeated!]

The arbiter, Grayfia-san’s voice echoed through the battlefield. Wait, so with that attack the enemies Koneko-chan and I were fighting were defeated!? Are you serious!? With that one attack!? I think I heard from Kiba before,

“The “Lightning Priestess”. That’s Akeno-san’s nickname. Since Buchou isn’t in an age where she can play in the official matches, not many people know about her. But she is famous in a certain group of people.”

Li...lightning priestess..... Scary! If she were to give me a spanking, I would definitely die! Yes..... I should never anger Akeno-san.....

“We did it, Koneko-chan.”

I tried to put my hand on her shoulder, but she dodged it.

“.....Please don’t touch me.”

She said it with a cold voice. She also had a funny expression. Uu....that reaction saddened me. Well it couldn’t be helped. Any girl would be alarmed at me if they saw a technique like that.

“Hahahaha. Don’t worry. I won’t use it on comrades.”

“.....Even so, it is a very low technique.”

Oh my. Looks like I’m totally hated by her.....

[Everyone, can you hear me? Akeno did a perfect attack and finished it. With this, the first phase of our plan is completed.]

I heard Buchou's voice from the transceiver I had on my ears. She seemed really happy. Buchou's plan. That was to destroy the location which was thought to be an important point. Also destroying it along with Raiser's "Pawn". Koneko-chan and I went through the back door of the gym to enter. We knew that we were being watched so it was all an act. We needed to make them battle us by making the opponent come into the gym as well. After that Akeno-san destroyed the gym with her lightning. We were a bait to make the enemy come inside the cage. Then we, the bait, left the cage and destroyed it along with the prey. Buchou's plan was superb! To throw aside the important location and use it to attack! Defeating 1 "Rook" and 3 "Pawn" was a big advantage. We still hadn't lost any of our members, so we had a good start!

[That lightning takes time to charge after she uses it. So repeated use is impossible. The enemy still has a greater number than us. We will also head out as soon as Akeno's magical power recovers. So I want each of you to move to the next phase!]

"Yes!"

So Buchou and Asia were heading out. Me and Koneko-chan's next move was..... To regroup with Kiba and defeat the enemy located at the sports court! Then it happened.

BANG!!

Then I heard a sound of explosion near me. When I looked at where the sound came from....

".....Ko....Koneko-chan!"

Koneko-chan was lying on the floor a bit away from me. I went to her quickly and held her! Koneko-chan's uniform was torn as if it had been bombed. There were parts in her uniform which were gone. Was the previous sound of explosion.....

"Take this."

An unknown voice. When I looked up there was a shadow up in the air flying with its wings. It was a woman dressed up as a mage and wearing her hood. Raiser's servant! Did Raiser's servant do this to Koneko-chan!? I was sure that was Raiser's "Queen"! The sudden appearance of the ultimate servant!

"Fufufu. When you hunt a prey, it's best when the prey accomplished something because that's the time when the prey is most vulnerable. It's enough for us to "sacrifice" our pieces in order to take down one of your pieces. Your group has a small number of members to begin with. Even this would be enough to put your group into a tight spot. Even if you defeat us, you cannot defeat Raiser-sama. It's useless to resist."

The magician woman laughed as if she found it funny.

".....Ise-senpai.....Akeno-senpai....."



Koneko-chan spoke with a voice which was about to disappear.

“.....I’m sorry.....I wanted to be of more use to Buchou and everyone.....”

“Y...you don’t have to apologize! We were doing our job! It’s not a problem! Just wait! If Asia comes, then she can heal you.....!”

Koneko-chan’s body was covered with light. The body started to fade and then it disappeared from here.....

[Rias Gremory-sama’s “Rook” defeated.]

I heard an unemotional announcement. Buchou explained it to me before. When we take a certain amount of damage and get into a non-fightable condition, we retire and get transported automatically. The destination is a place with medical equipment. That’s why it’s alright if we’re hurt badly. It’s not like we would die. So the servants that Akeno-san defeated and Koneko-chan were transported there. I know. I know that in my head. This is a match. But still I.....I.... I felt the weight disappear from my arms..... Damn it. Damn it! My body was shaking out of anger.

“Come down here!! I’ll be your opponent!”

I totally forgot about my next move and was provoking my enemy. Even I knew it was a stupid thing to do. But still I couldn’t forgive her. Koneko-chan was crying just before she disappeared. She was crying because of regrets! She was still able to fight! Shit! If I had realized it much quicker, I may have been able to save Koneko-chan! I forgot about the battle because I had accomplished my mission!

“Fufufu. What a noisy “Pawn” boy. Do you want to explode like that girl from before?”

The magician put her hands towards me! She was going to shoot!

“Ara ara. I will be your opponent. Raiser Phenex-sama’s “Queen”, Yubellna-san. Or should I call you “Bomb Queen”?”

Akeno-san came between us as if she was trying to protect me.

“I don’t like that name because of its bad taste, “Lightning Priestess”. I wanted to fight you.”

“Ise-kun, meet up with Yuuto-kun. I will take care of here.”

“B....but!”

I tried to convince her but Akeno-san showed a serious face to me for the first time. My heart raced. She had an extreme intensity.

“Ise-kun. You have your own role. Go. This is my job.”

That's right. I might just be a burden to Akeno-san. I needed to do what I had to do. I was biting my teeth, then Akeno-san smiled at me.

"It's okay. I will avenge Koneko-chan. I will defeat this "Queen" with everything I have!"

! A golden aura covered Akeno-san's body! Just by looking at it I knew how powerful she is. Akeno-san's magical powers. The strongest person in our group, our "Queen".

"Akeno-san! I will leave it to you!"

After I said that, I turned around and headed towards the sports court where Kiba awaited. Soon after that, I heard a roar of lightning and explosions. The match went from the start to the mid-game.

Life 5: High praises during the decisive battle

Part 1

It happened when I was on my way to the sports court where Kiba was waiting for me.

[Raiser Phenex-sama's 3 "Pawns" retire]

It was the announcement! Three of Raiser's "Pawns" were defeated!? Who did it? Akeno-san was battling the "Queen", Buchou and Asia were on their way here..... It was Kiba! With this, seven of their pieces were defeated. With this, they had 9 pieces left including Raiser. We only had 5 members left with Koneko-chan gone. We still couldn't let our guard down yet!

! Someone grabbed my arm while I was on my way to the court! Enemy!? I made my stance, but it was Kiba who was holding my arm. He had a refreshing smile like always.

"Oh, it's you."

"Yup."

Kiba was looking at the sports court from behind the storage room which is a blind spot from the court.

"Sorry, Kiba. Koneko-chan....."

"I heard the announcement so I know it as well. She must be regretting it. I never knew what she was always thinking about, but for this match she showed lots of concern. She also was working hard when we were setting a trap in the forest."

"....Let's win."

"Of course, Ise-kun."

We hit our knuckles together. At school I didn't like Kiba for being a good looking guy, but in terms of battle he is the most dependable ally. Occult research club's male pair! If we didn't show guts, then we would look totally uncool in front of the girls.

"Also was it you who defeated the enemy's "Pawns"?"

Kiba nodded at my question.

"Yeah. The club room located in the sports club is an important location. So it's natural that there are lots of enemies. I somehow managed to lure the "Pawns" around here and took them down. But the person in charge of this location is quite calm and hasn't been taken in by my provocation. Well, it seems like she used the "Pawns" to watch my attacks. Seems like Raiser

Phenex likes to battle by sacrificing his servants. It's something only he is able to pull off because of his immortality and the number of servants he has."

Kiba's mouth was smiling, but his eyes weren't.

"The enemies who are in charge of here are 1 "Knight", 1 "Rook", and 1 "Bishop". Total of 3 pieces."

".....That's a severe defense."

"That's how much they are keeping up guard for this place, of our intrusion here. Since we eliminated the gym, they will put more strength here."

The two routes which were seen as a path to the bases. The route from the gym and the route from the sports court. Buchou chose to destroy one path, so the only place we needed to guard was this sports court. So it would be obvious that they would increase the strength here. Because of our plan earlier, it ended by making their "Queen" come to the front lines..... Looks like the battle at this place will be more intense than the one at the gym. Uuu.....I'm getting a bit nervous!

"Are you nervous?"

Kiba asked me with a smile. It made my face red.

"O...of course! I basically have no battle experience! And now I'm here in an actual battle. I would be a grunt compared to you who is full of battle experience."

I have the powerful Boosted Gear. That would be enough for me to be a threat. But the wielder, me, is still a newbie. It's like a waste of a treasure. But still I want to fight for Buchou. I want to do something for Buchou. Even if I'm a weakling on this battlefield, I won't go down without a fight. If I was to fall, I would at least take many opponents down along with me.

"See."

While I was trying to make my determination strong, Kiba showed me his hand.

.....! Kiba's hand's were shaking.

"Ise-kun. You said I have a lot of battle experience. That's certainly true. But it's my first time participating in the Rating Game. A serious battle between devils. Even if this match is a special case, it doesn't change the fact that it's a serious fight. We get involved in devils fights, whether we like it or not. And this is our first game. We can't show them even a slight opening in our guard. This is a match where we have to give it all we got as Buchou's servant devils. It's something that will be important even in the future. I feel delighted and also scared. I don't want to forget the feeling of my hands' shaking. This feeling of being nervous. The intense atmosphere. I want to feel everything and make it my experience. Let's become strong together, Ise-kun."

Kiba..... He had been thinking that much about this match..... Like I thought, in battle he's.....

“Then let's do a combination which would make the girls get aroused.”

“Hahaha! Does it mean that I'm the one who goes from “Behind”?”

“Dumbass! If it's sticking in, then it's my job! I mean no! Die Casanova!”

Crap. I totally got dragged into his pace! Uuu...what am I doing? Then I heard a loud voice of a brave woman.

“I'm the “Knight” of Raiser Phenex-sama, Carlamaine! I've got bored of trying to sniff through each other's strategy! Rias Gremory's “Knight”! I challenge you to a duel!”

In the middle of the baseball court, there was a woman standing upfront wearing an armor. What a bold female knight! She can't complain if someone shoots her from the back! Fu Fu. Kiba laughed next to me.

“Since she introduced herself, I can't hide myself both as a “Knight” and a swordsman.”

After he said that, he took off. He then went straight to the baseball court directly.

“That idiot.”

Even I was complaining, I also followed Kiba. He's cool. That's what I thought after watching Kiba's back.

“I'm the “Knight” of Rias Gremory, Kiba Yuuto.”

“I'm the “Pawn”, Hyoudou Issei!”

Kiba and I named ourselves to Raiser's “Knight”, Carlamaine. The female knight then made a happy face.

“I'm happy that there are warriors like you two in Rias Gremory's group. Coming directly from the front. That's something people with normal sanity won't do.”

So we don't have normal sanity, huh.

“But I love idiots like you two. Then, shall we start.”

Carlamaine drew her sword out from her sheath. Kiba also got ready to draw his sword out.

“The match between “Knights”. I have been waiting for this. Personally I would like to fight in an intense sword fight.”

Kiba's aggressive words. Oh. Kiba is making a really lively smile!

“Well said! Rias Gremory's “Knight”.”

Carlamaine started to cut as if she was dancing.

[KATCHIN]

The swords hit each other making sparks! They had god speed because they were both “Knights”! They started! Exchanges of swords which I couldn't follow with my eyes. They both kept on appearing and disappearing! So what should I do? Hmmmm..... I would be a jerk if I helped out Kiba. No matter how you looked at it, it was a one on one fight. Or should I give him cheers like, “Go Kiba!” or “You can do it Kiba”?

“You seem bored.”

When I looked at the direction where the voice came from, there was a woman wearing a mask which just covered her face. If I remember, this woman is a “Rook”. Then another person came complaining.

“Geez. She only think about swords, swords and swords. Their match looks like a mud fight. Carlamaine was making a bitter face when the “Pawns” were being sacrificed. Does she hate the battle strategy of her master, the “King”? But when I thought I found a cute boy, he was also a sword freak. Geez, what bad luck.”

There was also a bishoujo wearing a dress like the western princesses wear. I think she was Raiser's “Bishop”. She had a drill shaped hairstyle on both sides. She seemed like a real princess. Wow! I'm surrounded by the pieces in charge of this place! The “Bishop” princess looked at me with weird eyes. W...what is it?

“Ummm. So this boy is the “Pawn” Rias Gremory adores. Does that person have bad taste in looking at gentleman?”

She then started to say rude things. Ku! She has a bad tongue even though she has a cute face! I took a jump from where I was standing and made a fighting stance against the two.

“Boosted Gear standby!”

[Boost!!]

The Sacred Gear power up started. I had to leave the “Knight” to Kiba, and take care of these two! But the “Bishop” girl just made a sigh.

“I'm not going to be your opponent. Izabella. Why don't you be his opponent?”

The woman with the mask, Izabella, nodded. The girl wearing a dress moved away from us after she got a confirmation from Izabella, and was looking at us from a distance. Huh!? The drill-roll haired girl isn't fighting!?

"I was planning to in the first place. Let's fight since we are both bored."

"Umm, yeah. That's okay, but isn't that "Bishop" going to fight?"

I questioned her. Because this was supposed to be an important fight. Even I didn't know how to react if she decided to withdraw from a fight..... The mask woman, Izabella, put her hand on her forehead and made a troubled face.

"Ah, don't worry about her. That girl is special. She will just watch the entire fight."

"W..what the hell is that!?"

I slipped my words. I mean, "watching"! This is an important battle!

"She is.... No, that person is Ravel Phenex. Raiser-sama's little sister. She became Raiser-sama's servant by using a special method, but she is Raiser-sama's actual sister."

.....Huh? That bishoujo-chan? That bird guy's? Huh? Whaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaat!! The bird bastard's sister waved her hand with a smile at me as if she realized I was shocked to find her identity.Oi, oi..... You can do that? He put his sister in his group and made her participate in the battle!?

"Well according to Raiser-sama....."

[Having your sister in your harem has a significant meaning. You know the significant view of having your close relatives? You know how there are people who look up to and also get jealous about it? Well, I'm not a sister-moe type, so I have her in my group as fashion.]

"That's what he said."

....That bird guy was actually a perv and also a dumbass!? But I think I know the feeling of having your little sister in your harem! Little sisters are good! I also wanted one! No, that's not it! Then that's how it is! So that girl is his sister, and she won't fight me!

"Now, here I come! Rias Gremory's "Pawn"!"

SWIFT

When I thought that the "Rook", Izabella, came forward, a really sharp punch passed through my cheek! Wow! Lucky I dodged the attack by instinct!

“Yes. So you can dodge a punch like this. Sorry. I was looking down on you a bit. I’ll put one gear....no, I will increase by two gears then!”

Izabella made a suspicious move while moving her body. But....

SWISH! SWISH!

She started to attack from unpredictable angles and places! Wow! When I thought that I dodged her attack, it came back again like a whip! Is this one of those boxing punches!? If I get hit, it will definitely hurt! I can’t attack unless I have my Boosted Gear to a certain degree! For now I have to dodge! I was dodging the attacks like mad and....

[KICK]!

“.....Gah!”

I felt an intense pain in my stomach. It was a kick. I was kicked! I was too focused on her punches so I didn’t pay attention to her legs.....! I became unbalanced, and more punches came at my face! Lots of her punches hit my face! It hurts! This is seriously bad!

[Boost!!]

Ku! I’m sure that was my 5th boost! It would be enough if my opponent was a “Pawn”, but it was not enough to defeat a “Rook”! In terms of piece value, it was the next highest after “Queen”! Half-assed attacks won’t work! I crossed my arms and guarded her punches. Her punches were heavy even with my guard on! If I continued to get hit by these attacks, I would “retire” immediately! I stepped back when she withdrew her punch! The enemy’s attack stopped. But she was still moving. I wouldn’t know when she would attack again. I was glad that I sparred with Kiba and Koneko-chan. That proved to be very useful because it gave me the sense to know when the opponent will stop attacking. Buchou also told me how to run so I was able to dodge the attacks just now. Then the “Rook”, Izabella, smiled.

“I was taking you lightly..... To tell you the truth I thought I got you when my kick hit you.... Looks like Rias Gremory has been training you well. Especially your stamina is magnificent.”

Stamina.....? Did I do something magnificent?

“In a serious battle, the most important thing is the stamina. Even idiots can fight. But you need stamina to continue for a few minutes. Battles consume lots of stamina and concentration. Just dodging the attack requires quite an amount of effort. So being able to do it till now means that you have been training your body a lot.”

.....My heart became full. The bitter training. The shouts which made Buchou seem like a devil. I was forced to run from the morning, and even had to carry rocks on my back in the mountain path. I thought I was going to die. I even thought that it wasn’t necessary. But Buchou stayed by my side from morning to dawn. Then my eyes got teary. I started to shed some tears pathetically

in front of the enemy. Buchou! Buchou! I am able to fight! I am standing! Everything that you have done for me is showing results! I can't lose. I won't lose! I will definitely make Buchou win! This woman! I will defeat this "Rook" who is right in front of me!

".....Looks like I said something unnecessary. I felt your pressure increase."

"Rook, Izabella. I am the weakest and the least experienced member in Rias Gremory-sama's group. But still I will defeat you!"

It was when I made my resolve.

[BUZZ!]

I heard the sound of the wind getting cut. When I looked, I saw Kiba's darkness sword dispersing.

Holy Eraser. A darkness sword that devours light. A Sacred Gear. It's Kiba's Sacred Gear, but it looks like a part of it was blown away by the enemy "Knight".

"Unfortunately, your Sacred Gear won't work on me."

Carlamaine's sword was covered in flame. A flame sword? So the Holy Eraser was beaten by that. But Kiba didn't seem bothered, and instead made a smirk.

"Then I will also tell you this. Unfortunately, this isn't everything of my Sacred Gear."

"What? Nonsense. "Knight" of Gremory. It's unsightly for a knight to....."

".....Freeze."

When Kiba said it with a small voice, there was something gathering in the blade-less sword. Huh? It feels like it has gotten cold..... I felt chills around here. When I was feeling something like that, Kiba's sword started to freeze. The ice started to pile up and it took the shape of a sword.

[BREAK!]

At the same time with the sound of ice breaking, Kiba's sword formed into a blade of ice.

"In front of this sword, "Flame Delete", all types of fire will disappear."

The ice sword!? Hey, hey, hey! The darkness sword wasn't the only weapon of Kiba's!? Everyone except Kiba had a shocked expression. That's obvious. Is it even possible!?

"A...absurd! Are you telling me that you have two Sacred Gears!?"

Carlamaine swung her flame sword to the side! She had an impatient look.

BREAK BREAK-BREAK.....

The instant Carlamaine's sword touched Kiba's sword, the flame sword started to freeze and turn into a solid. Then it made a sound and broke. Then it disappeared. But she didn't stop attacking. As soon as she threw away her sword, she took a short sword from her hip. She then put her sword up and shouted.

"We are the members of the all mighty house of Phenex, who rule over fire and wind! Taste it! The whirlwind of fire!"

Guuuuuuu!

There was a wind of fire around the baseball court with Carlamaine and Kiba in the middle of it. The hot wind was burning my skin.

"That Carlamaine! Has she forgotten that her allies are here as well!?"

Izabella commented, while using her arm to guard her face. Kiba's ice sword started to melt after receiving the wind of fire. Even so Kiba still didn't seem to be bothered.

"I see..... You are trying to burn us with the whirlwind of fire.....But."

Kiba put his blade-less sword in front of him. He then said with a strong voice,

"....Stop."

[SUCK!]

The wind was getting sucked into Kiba's sword while making a large noise. The wind stopped, and the baseball ground became silent.

"....."Replenish Calm". It's been a while since I last showed more than two demonic swords for one battle."

There was a unique looking blade in Kiba's sword. There was a mysterious whirlwind in the middle of the blade. The winds were sucked in there? He can even make that kind of sword as well!?

".....Multiple Sacred Gear. Are you a Sacred Gear possessor who takes the weapons of other Sacred Gear users and makes it their own?"

Kiba shook his head at Carlamaine's question.

“I don’t have multiple Sacred Gears. I also don’t take the Sacred Gears of others and make them my own. I created it.”

“Created...it?”

“Yes. “Sword Birth”. I can make any demonic swords. That is the name of my Sacred Gear and its true ability.”

Multiple swords appeared from the ground when he put his hand downwards! They were all of different shapes. Even the blades were different! From Kiba’s words, they were all demonic swords!

[Boost!!]

Here it comes! 150 seconds exact! Now I’m also ready!

[When you form a block of magic, shoot it with a shape you imagine the most.]

I remembered what Buchou said. The most easiest way for shooting a block of power for me is how the main character of “Dragon Ball”, Son Goku, shoots “Kamehameha”!

“Boosted Gear! Explode!”

[Explosion!!]

A massive load of energy waves gathered on both my hands. I spread my arms across and put them together! I imagined how I would shoot it, and shot it out by feeling the energy flowing within me! But I needed to hold back. The power that destroyed the mountain is bad. If I destroyed the school building, it might affect Buchou’s strategy. I shot it as much as I could hold back the power. My special move “Dragon shot”! I screamed the name of my special move within my body because they would know what I was about to do.

DON!

A block of magical energy shot out from my hands.

“Guwaa!”

I was pushed back because of its power. I kept on looking at the “Dragon shot” even though I was pushed back! It was huge! Even if you compared it to my body, it was about 5 times the size of my height. And that was heading towards my opponent really fast. My target was Raiser’s “Rook”. Buchou told me that in a “Rating Game”, “Rooks” are the most troublesome ones. The attack and defense get higher. These are the “Rooks” traits and that is what's the most scary. It’s normal to give the role of “Rook” to someone with high attack and defense, but it is also used in a different way. You can also give a role of “Rook” to someone with high speed or high magic. People who fight using magic tends to have weak physical builds. So they used the trait to

overcome their weakness. So if you give the role of “Rook” to someone with fast legs, they will turn into a person with fast legs, high defense and high attack. All-rounder type. Furthermore, “Rook” has a special ability similar to the “promotion” of “Pawn”. “Castling”. They can change the position of themselves with the “King”. Buchou told me this is the most troublesome technique. It doesn’t do anything after “Checkmate”, but swapping the position of the “King” and “Rook” is certainly powerful. Increasing their strong points or covering their weak points is up to the master. There are so many ways of using the pieces. That’s why I will take on the “Rook” Izabella.

“Izabella! Don’t take it! Dodge!”

Raiser’s “Knight”, Carlamaine shouted. Izabella who was trying to take the attack before moved to evade the attack.

PASS

Izabella just dodged my attack. My dragon-shot which missed the target went far away. It was heading for the tennis court.

The next moment.

[BANNNG!!]

The sound of the ground rumbling! A red glow of light and whirlwind hit us! I looked at the dragon-shot which hit the tennis court and couldn’t believe what I saw. It was gone! The tennis court along with the surrounding sports ground was gone! Did it get blown away!? With my attack!? Even if it was a replica, the school looked totally different from before! There was not even a trace left of the tennis court! Instead there was a crater! I held back yet this destructive power!? I realized it again. My Sacred Gear is abnormal!

“Izabella! Defeat that “Pawn”! That boy! That Sacred Gear has the power to change the outcome of the battle!”

By following the shouts of Carlamaine, Raiser’s “Rook” Izabella locked-on at me.

“Affirmative! Boosted Gear! It will become a big threat if we allow him to use “promotion”! I will take him down before that happens!”

It’s different from before, Izabella! My current attack power is that of a high-class devil! The enemy came rushing in at me, starting to kick and punch. I guarded them, and put strength in my left arm!

“Daa!”

My knuckle went towards Izabella. She crossed her arms and guarded but.....

BANG!

My heavy blow broke the guard and sent the masked “Rook” flying! Yes! I touched her! I can use it now!

“Burst! Dress Break!”

[POP!]

That moment, Izabella’s clothes were blown away. Her naked body became visible. Wow, it’s huge breasts! It’s really good since her body is tight! I have saved it in my brain's memory!

“Wha! What is this!?”

Izabella reacted by hiding her private parts. Well of course you would react that way! Here it is! I didn’t waste any time and put forward the small block of magic that I created with my right hand! I imagined a block of magic launching from my hand! I shot it towards the enemy!

“Go!!”

[SHOOOOOT!!]

The block of magic which had been powered up significantly with the gauntlet went forward!

“Ku! With a move like this!”

The waves of magic covered the naked Izabella’s body.

[BANG!!]

A big shock-wave spread throughout the area. When it calmed down, Izabella who was on the ground started to get covered with light. She started to fade away and disappeared from this place.

[Reset]

The effect of Boosted Gear ran out. Then.....

[Raiser Phenex-sama’s “Rook”, retires.]

I heard the announcement of Grayfia-san.

“Hell yeaaaaaah!!”

I shouted with joy because I defeated a “Rook”. I can fight! I can fight because of you, Buchou!

Part 2

I tried to inhale some air after the fight with Izabella..... I used quite a lot of stamina and magical power. In terms of magical power, I used my potential energy within me, so the stronger the attack the more exhausted I get. If I can hit two more shots of the magical energy just like now, then it will be good. No. After my second shot there's a threat that my magical powers will run out and I might faint. I should think that I only have one more shot left. Raiser's "Knight", Carlamaine, smirked after losing Izabella.

"Apparently both Izabella and I have been taking that "Pawn" and the Sacred Gear lightly. Just like I thought, I shouldn't take him as an ordinary "Pawn"."

I was praised by the enemy. This didn't feel too bad. I felt a bit happy.

"But it's an awful attack. No, I should say it's a scary attack. B....blowing away a woman's clothes....."

"Yeah, I'm truly sorry. I will apologize as well. I'm sorry for our Ise-kun being a lecher."

Like that, Kiba apologized to Carlamaine..... Why are you apologizing? I felt complicated. Carlamaine said it while holding the short sword with the other hand.

"But a demonic sword wielder.....what fortune. I may have a destiny of meeting swordsmen who wield special swords."

Kiba seemed quite interested after hearing that.

"Hmmm, so there is someone besides me who uses demonic swords?"

"No, it wasn't a demonic sword. It was a holy sword."

"...!"

Everyone here knew how Kiba's expression changed after hearing that. Instantly there were a load of killing intent coming out from Kiba. Wow. What killing intent! It felt really cold. My whole body felt cold. Kiba asked with a low voice while having cold eyes.

"Tell me about that holy sword wielder."

.....What intense force. He had the same level of hostility as Buchou when she's pissed. Holy sword? What does that have to do with Kiba?

"Hmmm, seems like that swordsman has some connection to you. But since we are swordsmen, talking would be rude. I will answer you with my sword!"

“.....Is that right..... If your mouth can move, then leaving you on the verge of death will be okay.”

CHILLS

There was killing intent between the two. The killing intents were so strong that it made me shake as well. Kiba! What happened to you!? Your usual refreshing smile is gone!? Someone approached me while I was feeling nervous at Kiba's change.

“So it's here.”

“Huh? Where's Izabella-neesan?”

“Don't tell me she was defeated?”

Lots of Raiser's servant shoujo started to gather. I remembered the faces. There were 2 “Pawns”, 1 “Bishop”, and 1 “Knight”..... Huh!? It was the gathering of the remaining servants! Wha! Are they trying to pull off a massive battle here!? There are only me and Kiba from our group!? Akeno-san is probably still fighting the enemy “Queen”, since there are still lightnings in the sky. Buchou and Asia.... Yes, what happened to those two? They should be moving ahead from the base.....

“Hey. The “Pawn”-kun over there.”

I was called by Raiser's girl. What is it?

“Raiser-sama said he's going to fight your princess. See there.”

The girl pointed very high at the sky. When I looked in that direction, there was a shadow with fire wings and a shadow with black wings. No matter how I looked at it, the person with black wings had crimson hair! That was Buchou!

[Ise-san! Can you hear me, Ise-san!]

Asia's voice came out from the transceiver.

“Asia! What happened? Is it about Buchou?”

[Yes. Right now I'm with Buchou-san on the school rooftop. The opponent, Raiser-san, challenged Buchou to a duel and Buchou-san accepted it! Thanks to that we were able to get into the school building without any problem.....]

.....What kind of thing is happening? I was making a clueless face, and Raiser's sister came to talk to me with a slim grin.

“Seems like Oni-sama made a challenge since Rias-sama was doing well in the battle unexpectedly. If we fought normally it would have been our win, so he gave her pity. At this rate she will be defeated before you fight him. Ohohoho.”

His sister started laughing by putting her hand on her mouth. I was starting to get pissed!

“Buchou is strong! Akeno-san will also come here as soon as she defeats the “Queen”! Kiba will also defeat all of the servants here with his demonic swords combo! I will also use my Boosted Gear and.....”

“The “Crimson-hair Ruin-princess”, “Lightning Priestess”, “Sword Birth”, and “Boosted Gear”. Just hearing the names gives me chills. But your opponent is the “immortal bird”. No matter what kind of power you have, it means nothing against the immortal bird.”

“But the “Phoenix” also has weak points!”

His sister laughed at my argument with her nose.

“Are you going to beat him until he loses the will to fight? Or are you going to defeat him with a strike that rivals God? Are you trying to win this match? That’s a laugh.”

“Why is it!?”

“That’s because there was no chance for Rias-sama to win from the beginning. That’s how much despair the thing “immortal” is to you.”

Raiser’s sister made a click with her fingers. The servants devil surrounded me.

“Carlamaine. I will leave that “Knight” boy to you, but if you lose we won’t fight in one-on-one. We will defeat him together. Or are you trying to lower the name of Phenex?”

Carlamaine agreed to Raiser’s sisters words.

“Sieris.”

“Affirmative.”

The one who stepped forward was a woman with a wild appearance. She was carrying a sword on her back.

“She is Oni-sama’s other “Knight”. Unlike Carlamaine over there, she doesn’t have any of that 'honor of a knight'. She will defeat her opponent. Just like that.”

The woman called Sieris drew her sword from her back..... It was a big sword. It was really wide. Would I die if I get cut by that thing?

“But she can do the finishing. Ni and Li.”

“Nya.”

“Nya-nya.”

The one who responded to her words were two girls with beast ears. I think they were “Pawns”.

“They are female beast warriors. Their hand to hand combat is remarkable you know.”

SWISH.

The two beast girls disappeared from my sight! Then I received a blow on my stomach and head!

“Guhaa!”

Without a time to whine, I started to receive blows in my legs, arms, shoulders, back. Everywhere in my body! I can’t see their fists! What speed!

“B...Boosted Gear!”

[Boost!!]

The power doubling started! But the enemy’s attack increased more.

“Ni! Li! Boosted Gear is a Sacred Gear which doubles the power every 10 seconds! From how the chainsaw twins, Eel and Nel, were defeated, you won’t be able to take him after he gets his third boost! Finish the fight in less than 30 seconds. Due to his Sacred Gear ability, he can’t fight when he increases his boosts! He will just run away! Aim for his legs! Also don’t touch his hands! That person has a shameless move that blows away clothes by touching his opponents!”

After hearing that, the twins made an expression of fear.

“That’s low!”

“Beast!”

Shut up! What’s wrong with it!? What’s wrong with obtaining a move which strips down girls naked!?

“It’s vulgar to think with your lower body!”

“What’s wrong with thinking with my lower body! I’m a guy!!”

Well it might be pointless talking back at them. But Raiser’s sister, she understood very well my weakness!

BANG!

Ouch! Shit! They started to aim for my legs! They low kicked me in my calves! Does a beast girl's kick hurt this much!? Is their basic physical bodies high because they are beasts!? I can't attack recklessly while the Boosted Gear is doubling my power! It would be the worst to start from 1 in the worst situation like this! I have to run and evade....

BANG!

“Ouch!”

Another low kick! It hurts! It's not only that! My feet are shaking because of the pain! With this I can't run away.....!

“Guhaa!”

I received a heavy punch in my face. My blood flew. Blood. Blood! From my mouth and nose! Tears started to come out because of the pain!

“Ise-kun! Shit!”

When Kiba saw my situation, he held the sword with two hands and started slashing so he could defeat Carlamaine quickly!

“Carlamaine! Hold it for another 10 seconds! I know that you can't win against that “Knight”! But we will be able to defeat the dragon user shortly! Keep that “Knight” busy!”

Raiser's sister laughed with enjoyment. Are you just observing like a king!? She was truly a bitch!

STOMP

Finally my feet couldn't move. My knee hit the ground..... Crap. I didn't have any strength left in my legs. My head started to get heavy as well. I took too much damages.... Shit! If I faint now, I will retire! I don't want that! I don't want to lose while not being of help to Buchou!

BAAAAANG!!

A shock-wave shook the whole field! I looked up because I thought it might be, and it was Buchou and Raiser fighting. They were clashing against each other by using their magic up in the air. A red magic energy and fire energy. Raiser didn't even have a scratch. Even his clothes weren't ripped. And Buchou on the other hand had some parts of her uniform burnt. I think she was breathing heavily as well.

[That's because there were no chance for Rias-sama to win from the beginning. That's how much despair the thing “immortal” is to you.]

The thing that Raiser's sister said earlier crossed my mind..... Lose? Us? Buchou is? What will happen if we lose? Then Buchou will.....with him..... That! That I won't forgive!! I have to stand. I have to stand even if my body gets turned into meat. Is it because I like her? That's part of it. Love is a part of it. But more than that, I have to protect her. It's not about contract or conditions. She has to be standing up proudly waving her crimson hair. That's Buchou. That's the Buchou I look up to. Buchou told me she doesn't want him. Buchou told me to fight. Then I.... I just have to fight.

Hey Sekiryutei (Red Dragon Emperor). Answer me if you can hear me.

“Give me strength! Boosted Gear!”

[Dragon Booster!!]

My Sacred Gear made a red light. It's not enough. This isn't enough! I want more strength!

“More! That time it was Asia! Now it's Buchou! Answer my feelings! Boosted Gear!!”

[Dragon Booster second Liberation!!]

The gauntlet made a sound which I had never heard before, and there were changes to my left arm. The red aura covered my left arm, and it shaped into something. The gauntlet started to change its shape. When the aura disappeared, the Boosted Gear....

“.....Changed?”

The gauntlet which was said to be a crystallization of insane power changed into a new form. The jewel which was on the hand part of the gauntlet also appeared in my arm. Therefore it changed the overlook of it. Huh.....? What is this? I was wondering about it, and the jewel sent the information to my head.

.....

.....so that's how I use my new power..... I was smirking. I can.....we can still get stronger.!

“Kiba!!”

I put all my strength to my legs and got up! Hahaha, I can hear screams from various places in my body! But keep moving for a bit more, my body! And...! I ran! I was running towards Kiba!

“Release your Sacred Gear!”

Kiba seemed confused at my shout. But he put his sword on the ground and howled highly!

“Sword Birth!”

PING!

The ground glowed and lots of demonic swords appeared. It's here! I thrust my fist on the glowing ground and shouted!

“Boosted Gear! The second ability!”

With the power I increased with my Sacred Gear, I sent the power to the ground! There was only one target! Kiba's ability to create demonic swords!

[A parcel from the Sekiryutei (Red-dragon emperor), “Boosted Gear Gift”.]

[Transfer.]

[PING!!]

The sound of metal rumbling violently echoed through the area. All of the sports court became a sea of swords. There were different shapes of swords in various places where the blades were directed towards the sky. The whole area became like a display area of demonic swords. All of them were the demonic swords created by Kiba.

The second power, Boosted Gear Gift. The effect is to send the power that I boosted with the gauntlet to other people or objects and increase its power drastically. I sent my power to Kiba's demonic swords on the ground. And this was the result. It increased the power of creating demonic swords and the area around us became a field of blades.

“.....Impossible.”

“Are you telling me this is also the power of the dragon?”

Raiser's servants blurted out their anguish. That couldn't be helped. Their bodies were penetrated by the swords which were sticking out from the ground. Then their body started to glow and disappeared from the battlefield. They retired!

[Raiser Phenex-sama's 2 “Pawns”, 2 “Knights”, and 1 “Bishop”, retires.]

“Yes!!”

I made a gut pose after hearing Grayfia-san's announcement. With that attack, it took down a large number of their servants! I can do it! We can do it! With this new power, “Gift”, Buchou, Akeno-san and Kiba's power will increase! Yes, with this new ability we can defeat Raiser!

“Ise-kun. I'm surprised. This power.....”

Kiba looked around at the various demonic swords with an awestruck look. He seemed surprised because his ability did more effects than he thought.

“Yeah, Kiba. I used the gauntlet to strengthen your.....”

[Rias Gremory-sama’s “Queen” retires.]

“..!?”

“What!?”

Kiba and I couldn’t believe our ears. Of-course! I can’t believe it! A..Akeno-san..... That can’t be! Akeno-san is the strongest out of us.....

[BANG!]

The ground vibrated violently and I heard a familiar noise. The sound came from where Kiba was. When I looked in that direction timidly, I lost my words. Kiba.... Our “Knight” was on the ground with smoke coming out from his body. There was blood around him. Even without any time reaching him, his body was covered with light and disappeared.

[Rias Gremory-sama’s “Knight” retires.”]

Another impossible announcement echoed through the field. I could only stand there in daze with the continued outcome of unexpected events.....

Part 3

I was the only one in the athletic fields, which were flooded with the blood of both enemies and comrades.

[BREAK].....

The ground which was turned into a world of demonic swords. But by losing its master, the demonic swords made a sound and started to shatter one by one. The fragments of demonic swords glowed with its silver and floated around the sports ground. It made a magical atmosphere. After a few seconds all of the demonic swords disappeared from the sports ground.

! Without a second to spare, I saw a shadow up in the air. When I looked up, there was a magician with a hood. It was Raiser’s “Queen”. She was supposed to be fighting Akeno-san! But only Akeno-san retired!? It didn’t seem like the enemy received any wounds! What was going on! It wasn’t possible that Akeno-san lost without achieving anything.

“The ‘Knight’, eliminated.”

Raiser’s “Queen” made a derisive laughter while saying that cold word. That instant I snapped.

“Were you the one who did in Kiba and Akeno-san!?”

That explosion! Yes, Koneko-chan also retired because of that magic! Damn it! She even took Kiba!

“Come down here! Akeno-san! Koneko-chan! And Kiba! I will avenge them! Come down! I will take you down with my Sacred Gear so come down!”

I put my fist upwards and provoked the “Queen”. The “Queen” looked at me with a grin and flew off towards the new school building rooftop with her black wings as if she had lost interest in me.

“Wait! I said wait god damn it!”

I chased after the “Queen” with my anger! I won’t let you go! Like hell I would! Buchou is there! Asia is also there! I won’t let you hurt any of my comrades anymore! I won’t let you!

SLIP

“Agaah!”

I fell to the ground because there wasn’t any strength in my feet. I tried to get up quickly, but there wasn’t any power left in my body.....! My body wouldn’t move because it was shaking like mad.....! Even I knew. My stamina had hit its limit. I lasted this long because Buchou trained me, but this would be the outcome if someone like me, with no battle experience, fought this long. My heart beat was pulsing really fast as well. I was also breathing hard. The damages were getting worse and it looked bad. I was about to lose my mind because my face, arms, legs, and stomach hurt. I also couldn’t think straight because I lost my comrades right in front of me. This was probably because I just witnessed the situation which felt as if my heart got ripped out from my body. But I had to stand. Even in this situation, what moved me was to go to where Buchou was.

“Ngaaa!!”

I shouted loud so I could put my spirit up. It seemed like there was a bit of energy left in my legs. Then I could stand! I stood up slowly and was able to face the direction of the school building. Yeah, I need to go to the rooftop. When I was thinking of going, someone spoke to me.

“Are you still going to continue to fight?”

When I turned around, Raiser’s sister came down from the sky with her wings of fire. She wasn’t eliminated with the demonic swords.....? Did she evade it by flying? If I think about it, the announcement said only one “Bishop” retired. I made a stance against her but she shook her shoulders.

“I’m not going to fight anymore. Because no matter how you think about it, it’s your group’s loss.”

“Shut up. Neither me or Buchou have fallen yet.”

“The power of the dragon from earlier. It certainly was something tremendous. To transfer the power you boosted to the person. I think it’s an abnormal power and thinking of Rias-sama’s power of destruction and “Lighting Priestess” power’s rising scares me. That power would be a threat to the high-class devils in the Rating Game in the future. But it’s your group’s loss for this battle.”

“.....Is it because Phenex is immortal?”

“That’s part of it but also because both you and Rias-sama barely have any stamina left. Isn’t it? Even if you can heal any wounds, you can’t heal stamina. In this situation you will lose because you will get even more worn out. Also...”

Raiser’s sister took out a small bottle..... What is that? Is it holy water? It can’t be.

“Tears of a phoenix. Have you heard of it? This is it. Our tears can heal any types of injuries.”

Tears of a phoenix!? Buchou told me about it at the camp in the mountain. But is it even allowed!?

“Don’t say it’s cheating..... Your group also has a person who possess the “Twilight Healing”.”

She said it as if she read my mind.

“And it even is in the rule book that “Only two people participating in the Rating Game can use it”. It was restricted because it was too powerful. Well that would be natural. In our case we gave it to our “Queen”. That’s why our “Queen” was able to defeat the “Lighting Priestess”. Also our tears are sold for high prices. Thanks to that, the house of Phenex is very wealthy. Only good things happened since the game was created. Immortality and tears. It is our age.”

Raiser’s sister started to speak proudly..... No.....if the opponent can heal during battle then even Akeno-san will..... It won’t go anywhere if I just think about the negatives. I made up my mind again and walked towards the building.

“Ho....hold on! Are you ignoring me!? You are going to lose anyway so it’s safe to stay here with me!?”

“Shut up. Just talk to yourself bird-girl. If you get close to me I will strip you naked.”

Raiser’s sister made a stance to defend herself. Yes, since she is a girl that’s the right response. I started to move toward the building. After a while I heard a shrill voice from behind.

Part 4

I got into the building from the back door and was running through the corridor. My goal was the rooftop! To Buchou's side!

[HEARTBEAT]

There was a change inside me. I had met the criteria since I got into the enemy base!

“Promotion, “Queen”!”

I felt power within my body. I ran again on the corridor! But...

SLIP

I fell violently in the corridor. I lost the sense of feeling in my legs. I knew it. My stamina hit the limit, right? Even if I gained a new ability, I didn't have the stamina to use it. Even so I still had to stand. I had to go to the rooftop even if I had to crawl. Akeno-san's gone. Koneko-chan's gone. Kiba's gone. All of my comrades disappeared from this field. I was the only member left that could protect Buchou! I had to persistently go to the rooftop! I didn't want to lose! I couldn't lose! Buchou! I will make Buchou win! I stood and fell. I stood and fell again..... I kept on moving up repeating that. I was heading towards Buchou while I was shedding tears, drool, and blood. I saw the door to the rooftop! I opened the door vigorously without taking a breath!

....! Buchou and Raiser were confronting each other. Asia was looking at them nervously from a distance. Good, they were both safe. But Buchou was inhaling her breath painfully. Her beautiful crimson hair was messed up and her uniform was torn. I inhaled a large amount of air.

“Buchouuuuu! Hyoudou Issei has appeared!”

I said it loudly so everyone on the rooftop could hear me. Then the eyes all gazed at me.

“Ise!”

“Ise-san!”

Buchou and Asia made a shout of joy. Hehehe, now I'm here! I can't let the girls wait!

“The dragon brat, huh. Ravel, did she let him pass?”

Raiser made a sound with his tongue. It seemed like his sister was going through a rebellious age. Thanks to that I got here safely. Then Raiser's “Queen” came down next to him.

“Raiser-sama. Should I take care of the “Pawn” boy and the “Bishop” girl? Also the power of the “Pawn” boy could be troublesome. His ability to get rid of what his opponents wear.....”

Raiser stopped his “Queen” who stepped forward with his hand.

“It would be troublesome if he gets rid of the flame which covers my body? I wonder about that. From that ability and from Rias’s “Pawn’s” personality, it probably only has an effect on women. I will be their opponent. Then they will also be convinced.”

.....What the hell is that? “It’s the last part so I will let them do what they want”. Is that what he’s trying to say? Also he knows the ability of my “Dress break”. Yeah, it only has an effect on girls. I made it by imaging it like that. I don’t want to see a guy’s naked body nor do I want to touch it. Well it does have the power to peel off fruits and vegetables skins, but it doesn’t show any effect besides girls.

“Don’t mess around Raiser!”

The angered Buchou shot her magic ball at Raiser’s face! He didn’t even dodge it and received it in his face. Ahh, his face is blown away! Yes! While I was making a sign of joy, fire appeared from the part of his blown face and started to form a shape. Raiser’s face returned to its original shape. Raiser started to twitch his neck as if nothing happened.

Immortal. This was the regeneration ability of the fire bird, phoenix.....

“Rias, resign. You will make your Otou-sama and Sirzechs-sama who are watching from another place look bad. You have no more choices. Everyone already has foreseen the outcome. It’s checkmate, Rias.”

Raiser said it as if he could see the outcome. But Buchou just glared at him.

“Shut your mouth, Raiser. I won’t give up! They knew the outcome? I have no more choices? Me, the “King”, is still active you know?”

Buchou laughed fearlessly.

Yeah! If Buchou says that then I can continue to fight! It’s not over yet! We are going to turn the table now! I went to Buchou’s side and stood between Raiser and her.

“Asia!”

When I called Asia, she looked at Raiser and his “Queen” nervously, then she came to me. Both Raiser and his “Queen” didn’t even try to shoot Asia. I knew it would happen, but for them to have this much confidence! Asia started to heal me and Buchou’s wound. When Asia’s hand touched me and Buchou, our body started to get surrounded by a shade of green light. The pain disappeared from my body as if the earlier pain was just my imagination..... My swollen face started to heal and my numb legs returned back to normal. But the stamina didn’t return. Even if the wounds healed the stamina didn’t.....

“Asia, stay back after you heal us.”

“!”

“If Asia stays then you can heal me and Buchou. You are like our lifeline.”

Asia had a sad face and it seemed like she wanted to say something. But she closed her lips and stepped back. This is right. If Asia is safe.....

“Kyaaaa!”

Wha!? I heard Asia’s scream. What came into my eyes were the unfamiliar magic circle below Asia’s foot. It seems like it was restricting Asia from moving.

“Sorry about that. It would make you guys seem pathetic if it takes too long. I could have taken that girl down but..... I just made sure you guys can’t heal anymore. That magic circle can only be unsealed if my “Queen” is defeated.”

Raiser said plainly. The opponent's “Queen” was putting her hand forward and her fingers were glowing. So that “Queen” is restricting Asia..... Shit! Asia was one of our last trump cards! But I didn’t have the time to complain! The last battle!

“Buchou, the battle continues right?”

“Yes it does.”

Buchou sounded as if she hadn’t given up yet! Yeah! We could still do it!

“But only me, Buchou and Asia are left. And Asia is captured. He on the other hand is immortal. He also has two servants as well. The situation is the worst.”

I made a grin and said it loudly.

“But I won’t give up. I’m dumb so I don’t know anything about “foreseen” or “checkmate”. But I can still fight. I can continue fighting as long as I can move my hand!”

“Well said! Ise, let’s defeat Raiser together!”

“Yes Buchou!”

Buchou ordered me proudly like usual. You heard right, Boosted Gear!? My master gave me an order! It’s simple. I just need to beat the guy in front of me. Yeah, just that!

“Let’s go!”

[Burst]

That was the sound that I shouldn't have listened to. When the jewel made that sound, my body felt heavy instantly and it felt like my body stopped working..... My consciousness was fading..... No! Anything but that! I fell down on the ground and vomited what was coming out of my mouth. It was a vomit of blood. When I saw that I realized. I realized that my insides were at their limit as well..... The light disappeared from the jewel. That was because, me, the possessor, had reached the limit and so it stopped functioning..... I don't have.....any injuries..... I can still fight..... Raiser said to me who was on the ground:

“The Boosted Gear's ability exhausts the possessor more than you can expect. Doubling your power is something very abnormal. The burden it puts on the body is several times higher than the ordinary Sacred Gear. You have been running around the battlefield fighting my servants and continued using the Boosted Gear. Rias's “Pawn”, you already reached your limit a long time ago.”

.....Not yet. Even if you say that..... Even if it is..... I can still.... Buchou who was next to me made a sad face. I'm sorry for making you worry. It's not a problem. I will stand up now. I will. I put strength in my legs and got up. How many times have I fell down and got up now?

“Buchou let's go!”

I went running towards Raiser.

Part 5

“Guhaa!”

Intense pain attacked me. I lost count of how many times I received this intense pain today..... I went down on the ground countless of times. I looked so uncool..... Buchou..... Let's win.... I will definitely win..... Buchou was already on her knees and wasn't trying to stand up..... Buchou ran out of her magical energy. She hit away Raiser countless of times, but Raiser kept on resurrecting while spreading his fire. As if nothing happened. I need to protect Buchou and Asia..... I.....

[BANG!]

Raiser's fist went deep into my stomach, and gouged at me by twisting his fist.

[COUGH!]

There were blood coming out of my mouth..... I spat out a lot of blood before and there was still blood left in me huh..... My eyes got blurry..... I shook my head so I could make my eyes clear..... It's alright..... I will win..... I will defeat this guy, Raiser.....and will present you with victory..... Then you will laugh with joy right.....? If you and Asia will laugh then I..... Yeah.....Buchou..... Thank you for training me..... I can still stand because of you..... I will win..... I'm a “Pawn”..... I will become the ultimate “Pawn”..... Yeah, the ultimate.....

[BANG!]

The fist went in to my face..... When it hit, it was like slow motion..... I can still fight.....
Buchou..... I will keep the promise..... I will win.....

Checkmate

The progress of the battle was moving to its climax. I understood. I, Rias Gremory, had no more moves. In other words, checkmate. No one had anymore strength left. But that boy continued to stand up.

Ise.

He was the only one who continued to move forward towards Raiser. But it was all over. The punch from Raiser ended everything. When Ise fell backwards, I went to his side unconsciously. When I held his body, he was covered in blood and sweat and was in a terrible condition. Even so, I still loved this boy.

“.....Ise you did very well. It’s alright now. Good job.”

I whispered to him gently but he tried to get up by getting away from me.

“It’s alright, Ise!”

He moved my hands and tried to get up. He took a step, and another step emotionlessly. It was a bizarre view. Everyone was looking at him holding their breath. The opponent, Raiser, also approached him emotionlessly. No! If I let this continue, I will lose Ise! My cute servant. My Ise. I was planning to adore him even more! I don’t want to lose him for something like this! I went between Ise and Raiser, and stood in front of Ise.

“Ise! Stop! Can’t you hear.....”

I stopped my words there. Of course. This..... He is..... Ise.....you..... Ise had already lost consciousness. Both his eyes were hollow and his mouth was open. Even so, he continued to move forward while holding his shaking fists.....

“.....You.....Even though you are in this state.....”

There were tears on my cheeks. I put my hand on this adorable boy’s cheek. His cheeks were swollen. His special power of giving me strength couldn’t be felt from his cheeks anymore.

“.....You dummy.”

I hugged Ise who tried to move forward.

“Good job, Ise.”

When I said those words, all his strength disappeared and he fell on the ground. I hugged his body and made him lay on my thigh. You said you wanted a thigh pillow, didn't you.....

[Buchou! I will definitely make you win!]

Ise had barely learned how to use magic, yet he continued to move forward with all his might. He barely had any battle experience. He should have been scared. There should have been times where he almost lost his life.....

[But I won't give up. I'm dumb so I don't know anything about “foreseen” or “checkmate”. But I can still fight. I can continue fighting as long as I can move my hands!]

He continued to fight for me even though his fists got this swollen..... Always. He was always smiling. He was always doing his best and he continued to fight for me. I was almost about to lose Ise forever.

“Thank you Akeno, Yuuto, Koneko, Asia and.....Ise. Thank you for fighting for someone worthless like myself.”

After I patted Ise's forehead gently I told Raiser.

“It's my loss. I resign.”

My first Rating Game. It started with a bitter and painful loss. I will never forget this loss.

End game

Red. I was watching a red dream. Something made a sudden complaint to me within myself. The power I am using now isn't its actual form. Who? Sacred Gear? Or something which is inside me? He moved its lips while shaking its scorching fire.

[If you are like that, you will never get strong.]

I heard something like that in my mind. I didn't make it up. It came from within my heart..... No, from my left arm.....

[You are an abnormal being who possesses a dragon within you. Don't look uncool. The “White guy” will laugh at you.]

You... Are you the dragon that appeared in that dream? Was that new power up because of you?

[Yeah. You wanted it. You desired it. The “White guy” desired it as well. That’s why you went into a new step.]

Desire? What are you saying.....? I mean who the heck is the “White guy”!?

[He will appear before you sooner or later. Yeah. He and I are destined to fight. Oh yeah. My power. I will teach you how to use its real power.]

What.....what are you saying? Who are you.....?

[Welsh-Dragon, Ddraige. Hyoudou Issei. I’m the one inside of your left arm.]

Welsh-Dragon.....Ddraige.

[Losing may be alright. If you don’t die, losing can become your strength. But it only means something if you win the next fight. Lose then win. Then continue to win. If you do that, you will meet him.]

So what’s going to happen between me and “him”.....?

[You will know soon enough. Get stronger for that day. I will give you power any time you want. But keep it in your mind that it will come with the sacrifice of something great. I will give you something which is worth a sacrifice. You can show it to those who laughed at you. The existence of a “Dragon”.]

Life. ∞ vs Power ∞ I came to keep my promise!

Part 1

When I woke up, it was a familiar ceiling. It was my room.

....Why am I here? I tried to remember hard what happened..... I was supposed to be having a match. The “Rating Game” between Rias and Raiser. The stage was the replica of the school I go to. Our base was the old school building, and the enemy’s base was the new school building. I was running around the battlefield along with Kiba and Koneko-chan aiming towards the enemy’s base. Koneko-chan fell. Kiba fell. Akeno-san fell and then.... Then I got my mind straight. What happened to Buchou!? The match!? The outcome!? Did we defeat Raiser!? Why am I here? When I got my upper body up.

“Seems like you are awake.”

The woman next to me talked to me. The silver haired maid, Grayfia-san.

“Grayfia-san! The match? What happened to Buchou!?”

“Raiser-sama won the match. Rias-ojousama resigned.”

.....! N...no....I became speechless. I didn’t know what to say. Did I lose? Was I beaten by Raiser? Shameful. I’m such a shameful and useless guy..... I acted so big and I couldn’t do anything and went down right in front of Buchou..... Weak.... Why am I so weak.....? Even Asia could have continued to live as a human if I was a bit stronger. Also Buchou. If I could have used my Sacred Gear even more effectively it wouldn’t have ended like this.... I couldn’t stop crying. Even if Grayfia-san was next to me I was shedding loads of tears. I only had regrets. And felt shameful. And weak. And pathetic....

“Right now there is an engagement party for Ojou-sama and Raiser-sama taking place. It’s at the assembly hall which was prepared by the house of Gremory.”

“.....Where’s Kiba and the others?”

“They went to escort the two. The only ones who aren’t at the hall who are related to them are Issei-sama and Asia-sama.”

Asia? Asia didn’t go?

“Because of Rias-sama’s wish, Asia-sama stayed here with me, taking care of Ise-sama. She went downstairs to get a new towel.”

Is that so. Buchou left Asia by my side..... I made her worry. Buchou.... Engagement.... So right now it’s the middle of the party.....

“.....Do you not agree with it?”

That’s how Grayfia-san asked me.

“Yes. Even if the battle is over I can’t accept it.”

“Rias-ojousama obeyed the family’s decision.”

“I understand that! I know that! But still I.....”

I couldn’t agree with something Buchou was against! I didn’t want to see Buchou who had to obey her parents against her will! That bastard! I didn’t want to hand Buchou to that bastard! I understood it. This was jealousy. I was feeling jealous of that bastard, as a single guy! I did not want to hand over Buchou to someone like him!

“Fufufu.”

Grayfia-san started to laugh quietly. It was my first time seeing her smile. She always seemed cool and calm.....

“You are a very interesting person. For a long time I have seen many devils but it is my first time seeing someone like you who shows what he thinks with his face and moves by what he believes in. My master, Sirzechs-sama, was watching your effort in the battle from another place and said that you were “interesting”.”

Seriously? Mao-sama thinks about me like that? If Buchou’s brother who is also the king of devils calls me “interesting”, I don’t know how to react. Grayfia-san took out a single paper. There was a magic circle written on it.



“This magic circle can transport you to the hall of the engagement party of the houses of Gremory and Phenex.”

! Why..... Why did she show me this!?

“I have a message from Sirzechs-sama for you.”

She paused for a second and spoke with a serious face.

“[If you want to save my sister, barge into the hall.]. That’s what he said. There is also another magic circle on the back of the paper. Please use it when you take back Ojou-sama. It will definitely be useful to you. ”

.....

I didn’t know how to respond. Grayfia-san stood up and tried to leave the room after leaving the magic circle paper in my hand.

“When Ise-sama was sleeping, I felt a very enormous power within you. The Dragon is the only being which didn’t form an alliance with either God, the devils or the fallen-angels. If it’s that hatred power, then.....”

Grayfia-san stopped there and left my room. I was left alone in my room..... There was no need to think about it. When I got up from my bed I went to find something to wear. Then I saw the new uniform on my table..... It was torn and damaged that badly..... Who prepared this new one? Was it Grayfia-san? Buchou? Anyway, thanks to whoever did. It happened when I put my uniform on and took the paper. The door opened and Asia came in.

“....! Ise-san!”

Asia dropped the towel and bucket of water when she saw me. Then she jumped into my arms. Wow. What happened Asia.....? I would feel embarrassed if you suddenly hugged me.

“Thank god. I’m so happy. You slept for two days even when your wounds healed..... I thought you would never going to open your eyes again..... Ise-san.....”

Asia started to cry in my arms. Aah, I made her cry again. I calmed her down while patting her head. Man, what am I doing? For sleeping for two days.

“Asia, listen to me. I’m going to Buchou’s side now.”

“!”

She seemed very shocked at what I just said. She seemed to know what I was about to do.

“.....It’s not.....to celebrate.....right?”

“Yeah. I’m going to take back Buchou. It’s not a problem. I got my hands on a route to go to the hall.”

“I’m going too!”

Asia said it without a second thought. She had a serious face. Oh man.....

“No. You stay here Asia.”

“I don’t want to! I can fight along with Ise-san! I learned how to use magic! I don’t want to just be protected!”

Asia grabbed my hand. It felt like she was saying that she didn’t want to leave me. No, she meant that.

“No. You will stay Asia. I will get Buchou back. You know, Boosted Gear is a professional thing for something like this. Don’t worry. I will beat up Raiser easily and.....”

“I cannot be unworried!”

Asia raised her voice. Her voice was mixed with tears. There were tears which came out from her green eyes and she had a very sad face.

“.....You might get bloody.....and crumbled.....and mushy again..... Are you going to go through all that pain again.....? I don’t want to see Ise-san in that state again.....”

I received critical injuries when I took Asia back from the fallen-angel and the group of exiled-exorcists. I was also torn in the battle with Raiser. I would have died if I didn’t get healed by Asia. I can even imagine Asia crying while healing me. I will probably continue to make this girl go through sadness. I thought about the future like that, a little bit. I grabbed Asia’s hand and said it with a smile,

“I won’t die. Absolutely. I promise. Remember how I was alive when I saved you? That’s why I will be okay. I will not die. I will live and stay with you forever.”

Asia nodded while wiping her tears.

“.....Then please promise me one more thing.”

“Promise?”

“Please come back with Buchou-san.”

Asia said it to me with a smile.

“Yeah, of course.”

Asia smiled really happily when I answered her. Oh I remember. There's something I want to ask Asia.

“The truth is, Asia.....”

When I told Asia the circumstances, she agreed and went to her room and got a particular thing. Now, what was left was..... I closed my eyes and talked within my heart.

(Oi. Come out if you can hear me. You are there, aren't you? Welsh Dragon Ddraig! If you are there, I need to talk to you. Come out!)

A creepy laugh echoed in my heart without any moment's notice.

[Yeah, what is it brat? What business do you have with me?]

Part 2

[SHINNNNNNNNNE]

.....

I was transported to an unfamiliar place with the magic circle Grayfia-san gave me. I thought that I couldn't transport because I lacked magical energy. Maybe this magic circle is special? I looked around where I was transported. It was a very spacious corridor. On the wall there were candles which continued to the end. There was a huge portrait of a man with crimson hair. Is it someone related to Buchou? Oh, I don't have time to waste. I walked towards the direction where I could hear noises. Then the opened gigantic door. There were huge engravings on the door. Is it a model of some mystical beast.....? Well who cares. When I looked inside the door, there were a lot of devils who were dressed up and were having a good time. These kinds of things are similar to the social parties of humans from rich backgrounds. Well, I had never been in one though. I thought it was as such by my imagination. I looked at the devils and tried to find familiar faces. But it certainly was a spacious hall. Isn't it bigger than the school field? The ceiling was really high up. There was also a fancy and gigantic chandelier. So this is the hall people from Buchou's house organized. Man, rich people are amazing. I want to get my peerage quickly and become someone important. When I was thinking something like that, I saw a crimson color. A woman who had her crimson hair up. She was wearing a red dress. I knew it with a single glance. Of course. Because that was the person I admire.....

“Buchouuuu!!”

When I realized it, I called out Buchou and the shout echoed throughout the hall. The devils around looked at me, and Buchou also looked my way. I didn't miss Buchou opening her eyes wide and shedding one drop of tear. I also knew she moved her lips, saying “Ise”. The bastard Raiser, who was next to Buchou, also noticed me. Man, that jerk is showing off by wearing a fancy tuxedo!

“To all the high-class devils here! And Buchou’s brother, Mao-sama! My name is Hyoudou Issei from Kuou Academy! I have arrived to take back Buchou, Rias Gremory-sama!”

The hall became noisy. Without any care about them, I went towards Raiser.

“Hey you! Do you know where this.....”

A person who seemed to be a guard came to stop me. But there were those who came in to stop them.

“Ise-kun! Leave this to us!”

It was Kiba. Kiba who was wearing a white tuxedo was standing there.

“.....You are late.”

A small build girl who was wearing a dress came in to stop the guards as well.

“Ara-ara, you finally came.”

Akeno-san who was wearing an expensive looking kimono was also present. All of them were stopping those who were trying to stop me.

“Thank you.”

I thanked them and went towards Raiser confidently. When I faced him upfront, I said it straight at him,

“Buchou, Rias Gremory-sama’s virginity belongs to me!!”

“.....!!”

Raiser made a face which you can’t explain with words.

“What’s going on, Raiser?”

“Hey, Rias-dono. What’s the meaning of this?”

Relatives and people who were relatives were making unsettled faces and they were panicking. Devils, just like humans, become confused when they face unexpected things.

“It’s an event that I organized.”

Then a man with crimson-hair who was at the far back walked towards us. It was the person who was drawn in the portrait earlier. He seemed to resemble Buchou.....

“Oni-sama.”

Buchou called him that. Wait, Oni-samaaaaaaaaa!? Th.....then this person is..... Mao Sirzechs Lucifer-sama!?

“I wanted to see the power of the dragon, so I asked Grayfia.”

“Si.....Sirzechs-sama!? You can’t do something irresponsible like this!”

I don’t know who’s relative he was but a middle-aged man was panicking.

“Who cares. The “Rating Game” from last time was very entertaining. But it was one-sided because my sister who has no experience at the game had to face the genius Raiser-kun.”

“.....So Sirzechs-sama, you are saying that the last game isn’t fair?”

“No, no. I don’t think so. If a Mao such as myself says that, then I would be making the old nobles look bad. The connection between the high-class devils is important.”

Mao-sama said it with a smile. From the way he spoke, was he aiding Buchou?

“Then, Sirzechs. What do you want to do?”

A middle-aged man with crimson hair asked Mao-sama. Crimson hair..... Is it Buchou’s father!?

“Father. I want to make my cute little sister’s engagement party into a flashy one. Dragon versus Phoenix. Don’t you think it’s the ultimate event? To stir up the party by having a battle between legendary creatures. Nothing can beat this entertainment.”

Everyone in the hall became silent with Mao-sama’s words. Sirzechs-sama then looked at me.

“Dragon user-kun. You have the permission. Raiser, can you show your power once more right in front of me and Rias?”

Raiser smirked after hearing Mao-sama’s wish.

“Alright then. I cannot decline if Sirzechs-sama asks me. This Raiser will show his last performance before settling down!”

.....He was set for the fight. With this, the stage for the battle between Raiser and I was ready. Now I just needed to win! Mao-sama asked me when I was raising my spirit,

“Dragon user-kun. What prize do you want when you win the match?”

“Sirzechs-sama!?”

“What are you saying!?”

The relatives started criticizing after Sirzechs-sama’s offer.

“He’s a devil, so we need to give him something great for asking him to do something. Now dragon user-kun. I will give you anything. A peerage? Or the most beautiful woman?”

Mao-sama asked me while ignoring the voices of others around him. That was the best offer I could ask for. My dream was in it. A peerage. And the most beautiful woman. With one word I could have either of it. But I had already decided what I would wish for.

“I ask you to give me Rias Gremory-sama back.”

Mao-sama made a very happy face when I answered him without any pause.

“Okay then. If you win, you may take Rias with you.”

With this, the battle between Raiser and I was about to commence in this hall.

“Thank you very much.”

I bowed my head to Mao-sama who went back to the end of the hall.

Part 3

The center of the hall was cleared in a hurry.

The devils in the hall were looking at the space with interested eyes. The club members were sitting in the same place as Buchou. Mao-sama was also present next to Buchou. At the Phenex side, the relatives, their servants and Raiser’s sister were sitting. And me and Raiser were confronting against each other. This must be a devil's ring then. I already had my Boosted Gear appear on my left arm. Raiser had a confident face.

“Please start!”

The person in charge of the battle gave a call for the start of the match. The battle starts! There’s no more turning back! Yeah, I just have to win! But before that, Raiser let his fire wings out and pointed at my gauntlet.

“Your ability is already cracked. A Sacred Gear that keeps on doubling the power of the user, “Boosted Gear”. Also it seems like you gained a new ability which can transfer the multiplied power into an object and your allies.”

So he knew the ability of “Boosted Gear Gift”. Yeah, I expected it. Also “Gift” is a million times stronger if I fight with my allies. I made a big grin towards Buchou.

“Buchou. I will finish it in 10 seconds.”

“.....Ise?”

Buchou made a doubtful face. Don’t worry. I will show it to you now.

“10 seconds? You talk big. Then I will finish this in 5 seconds. It won’t be like last time, Rias’
“Pawn”!”

Raiser Phenex! I’m going to crush you down for real!

“Buchou! Allow me to use “Promotion” here!”

Buchou nodded at my request.

[HEART BEAT]

I heard the noise within me. This feeling was the approval of Buchou who allowed me to use
“Queen”.

“Promotion, Queen!”

I promoted to the ultimate piece! I could feel a power that was coming from within me! The start
of the battle will be the climax! Now the next one! Let’s go Akai-Ryutei (Red Dragon-emperor)!
My Sacred Gear!

“Buchou!”

I shouted towards Buchou.

“I don’t have talent for swords like Kiba! I’m not a genius like Akeno-san at using magic! I don’t
have a crazy strength like Koneko-chan! And I don’t have a healing power like Asia! But still I
will become the “Ultimate Pawn”!”

I promise! I promise you Buchou!

“For you, I will even beat God! With this Boosted Gear! My only weapon! I will protect you!”

I will definitely protect you and become stronger along with my friends!

“Glow damn it!! Over Boost!!”

[Welsh Dragon over booster!!!]

The jewel in the gauntlet released a red light. The red light shinned throughout the entire hall. A
deep crimson colored aura covered me.

-The power.....

-Your power is flowing into me.....

[Yeah. Use it. But only for 10 seconds. Your body can't endure more than that.]

I know that, Red Dragon-san. It will be finished in 10 seconds!

[That's right. But if you have 10 seconds then you will.....]

Yeah. If I have 10 seconds I can.....

“I can beat the crap out of him!!”

I stepped forward while emitting a red aura. My body was covered with a red armor. A plate-armor that had the motif of a dragon. The whole armor had a sharp shape. The gauntlet I always have on my left arm also was equipped to my right arm. The jewel that was present appeared in both my arms, shoulders, knees and the middle of the torso. On the back there was something like a rocket booster propulsion.

“Armor!? You made the power of Sekiryutei (Red Dragon-emperor) into a real form!?”

Raiser had a shocked expression. His comment was acute. Well it looked like a small red dragon. Even my face was covered by the armor.

“This is the power of the emperor of dragons! Balance Breaker, “Boosted Gear Scale-mail”! If you want to stop me, ask Mao-sama! Apparently it's the “Hated Forbidden Technique”!”

The scale-mail's ability releases destructive power for 10 seconds. Once released I will be invincible for 10 seconds. But it has a big risk. After I release it for 10 seconds, I won't be able to use my Sacred Gear for three days. That's how the red-dragon, Ddraig explained things to me. So it's a sink or swim invincible mode.

[X]

The count started. Since this is activated there's no time! I will have this finished right away, Raiser Phenex! I made a little gap between my hand and made a block of magic between my hands. I shot it to Raiser immediately. The magic which left my hand got enormous and went towards Raiser! Wow, look at the size of this thing! It's about half the size of this hall. Even I who shot it was shocked.

“It's big!”

It was so big that it betrayed Raiser's prediction, so he chose to evade it instead of taking it. It's here!

[IX]

The countdown has already started. I know. Don't rush me! I jumped towards the place Raiser ran to. The propeller released a magic power. Instantly it released an explosive speed! Because of the G force, I couldn't handle my body but it reduced the distance between me and Raiser. Since I went at an insane speed to where he ran to, Raiser made a shocked face. He made a stance at me since he couldn't counter measure it. I will attack here! Well that's what I like to say, but without doing anything I.....

BANNNG!!

I crashed into the wall. Such a disappointment! That was a chance! When I crashed, I guarded with both my arms so there were no damages. But there was a huge hole in the wall. Wow amazing! If I crashed into the opponents, wouldn't they have received a critical damage?

[VIII]

8 seconds left! I got up and shook off the fragments of the wall and confronted Raiser again. Raiser became more vigilant than before after seeing my attacks. His body was covered in a rainbow colored aura. I could feel the enormous magical power with my skin.

“Shit Sekirutei brat! Sorry but I won't hold back! I don't want to admit it, but right now you are a monster! Die right in front of your master, Riasss!!”

A pair of fire wings appeared on Raiser's back after he howled. There was a whirlwind of fire surrounding him and the hall was surrounded by an intense fire. Even the devils who were in the hall created a barrier to protect themselves. It meant that there wouldn't be a bone left if you got hit by that.

“Fire bird and Fenghuang! And the flame of our house, which is admired as the immortal bird of phoenix! Receive the fire with your body and perish!”

Raiser who was covered in flames rushed towards me fast. There was an insane amount of flames right in front of me. The silhouette resembled a gigantic fire bird. The intense fire from the wings. Would it be bad if I touched it?

[The fire of the immortal bird Phoenix can leave a scratch on the scale of dragons. It's not a good idea to keep on taking it.]

Is that so Ddraig? But I can't do that. That person is looking. I will stop that while Buchou is looking at me!

“I won't perish with a crappy fire like yours!”

I ran towards him while making a howl! The propeller on my back released fire made up of magic!

HIT!!

When both of our fists hit each other's face, it shook the whole hall because of the impact created from our powers clashing. Guu! I felt a heavy blow for every hit I received! Then a hot flame attacked me! Hot! Shit! It's so freaking hot! The temperature of the flame I feel from Raiser's fist. If I didn't have this armor on, then it probably wouldn't have left a bone. I'm scared! I want to leave here! I don't want to die! The more fists I exchanged with Raiser, the more I realized the difference between us. When I remove this armor, the power difference between me and Raiser is that of an ant and an elephant. After all, I am a lower-class devil and he's an upper-class devil. Raiser smirked as if he realized I was feeling scared.

“Are you scared!? Are you afraid of me!? Of course! If you didn't have a Boosted Gear, then you would just be trash! If you didn't have that armor, then you would have perished before my fist reached you! Yes! If you take that gauntlet off you, then you have no value!”

He was saying whatever he felt like! But he was right! If you take this gauntlet away from me, then I will be nothing!

[VII]

The serious battle between devils. Fear struck my whole body. I didn't want to experience something scary like this! But!

I pulled out a certain thing which I hid in a section of the gauntlet.

BANG!!

My fist hit right into Raiser's face. Raiser bent back.

“That won't work on.....!”

Cough!

There was a lot of blood coming out from Raiser's mouth. My hit was critical against Raiser. Of course. That was because I was holding onto this in my hand. I opened my hand and showed it to Raiser!

“A cross!? You have a cross!?”

Raiser was shocked. I could even hear screams from the devils in the hall. Yes. It's an item that devils are weak against. I had it in my hands and punched Raiser. It's the thing I got from Asia. I received that before I came here and hid it.

[VI]

“I increased the effect of the cross with my Sacred Gear and punched you. A holy attack which has increased drastically can even be used against high-class devils. Even if it’s the immortal bird Phoenix, you won’t be able to heal this attack, right?”

“Absurd! Crosses bring intense suffering to devils! Even if you wear a dragon armor, touching it is absolutely.....”

Then Raiser realized the change in my left arm for the first time. He wouldn’t realize it since I was wearing the dragon armor over my whole body, but he could notice it if he took a good look. The whole armor which was made up of inorganic material, and my left arm which was continuously giving a pulse.

“.....Did you give your.....left arm to the dragon residing in the gauntlet.....? So that’s the reason for your insane powers.....!”

“Yeah, that’s right. I gave my left arm so I can use this power for a temporary period. My left arm is the arm of actual dragons. That’s why a cross doesn’t work on me.”

Changing my left arm was the sacrifice needed to use Ddraig’s absolute powers. I gave my left arm so I could fight on par with Raiser. The gauntlet became a part of my left arm.

“If you do that then your left arm won’t return to normal! Do you know that!?”

“What about it?”

[V]

The count was decreasing while we were talking about useless things.

“Buchou will come back just with one arm of someone like me. It’s a pretty cheap deal, don’t you think?”

Raiser's eyes changed after hearing what I just said.

“You are crazy..... That’s why you can hit punches without any hesitation..... You are scary. I have become scared of you for real, for the first time. That’s why!”

Both of Raiser’s wings turned into a bigger flame.

“I’m going to beat you with everything I have!”

Fire bird. He rushed towards me while the surroundings were engulfed by fire. I won’t lose! I will not lose!

[IV]

“Uooooooooo!”

I put all my power to the cross I was holding on to! One hit! I will put everything I have into this cross! Raiser’s fist and my fist! They crashed onto each other’s face!

FLASH

The clash between two incredible powers. There was a flash created by the collision and it blinded my eyes! I also felt the feeling of the things I was wearing vanishing. The same feeling you have when you take your rain coat off when you get home on a rainy day. It was similar to that. At the same time I felt heat surrounding my body. It was hot like crazy! Until before I didn’t feel anything hot like this! When I got my sight back I realized the changes in me. The armor was gone! The red dragon armor which was covering my whole body disappeared! Unprotected body. There was only my left arm of a dragon left. My cross which seemed to have been knocked off during the previous attack was lying on the floor near me. Hey dragon-emperor! What’s the meaning of this!? It hasn’t been 10 seconds yet! Why has the armor disappeared!? Wait....are you telling me the price I paid can only be used until this much!?

[No. The price you paid to attain my power is enough. But your basic stats are too low to control my powers. You lack training.]

.....Damn it! I trained that much with everyone and yet I’m lacking it!?

[That is nothing compared to the long time devils live for. Devils' training means something if you train for dozens of years.]

Aaaah! Geez! I don’t need things like that now!? Give me the armor one more time! What do I have to pay this time!? My eyes!? My legs!? I will give you anything!?

[Using the second armor in this short time is impossible for you now.]

.....Is that because I am weak.....? Shit, why do I look so uncool at crucial times.....? That was the only thing someone useless like me could do!

[When the power of the armor disappeared, I transferred a bit of the power to the jewel. You can overwhelm Raiser Phenex for a short time, but that’s it. To beat the ones from Phenex clan, it’s.....]

I have to beat him down hundreds of times or eliminate him with absolute power.

[Yes. Unfortunately you can’t beat him for many times with the current power of the gauntlet. Even the multiplied power is far from close to the “absolute power”. You don’t have either of the two.]

GRIP!

I was grabbed strongly by my collar. It was Raiser. I was lifted up from the ground while having my neck choked. Raiser choked me even strongly while smirking. Ku.....painful.....

“I praise you for doing this well for a “Pawn”. You really did well. To tell you the truth I didn’t expect you to do this well. I experienced the power of the dragon user with my own body. If you had a year, no six months for you to get used to your dragon's power I would have lost.”

.....He didn’t seem to be joking. He had a serious face. If it was only six months.....then wait for the marriage for another six months! That’s what I would have liked to say. Raiser’s clothes and body were worn. Even for Raiser who had a very high regeneration ability, the rate to heal the damage from holy attacks was taking long. His fire wings were smaller than before. He received quite a lot of damage.....

“There’s nothing you should feel ashamed about. I will train you after I become Rias’ groom. You will become a strong devil.”

Shut up! That’s none of your business!

“Now, I will have you go to sleep. You will lose consciousness for a short while. By the time you wake up, it will be all finished. Even you don’t want to suffer anymore right. I’m not a sadist so I will finish it now.”

Raiser had a face that had confirmed his victory. I’m going to lose? No, that will be unforgivable.

[-Please come back with Buchou-san.]

Yeah I know Asia.

[-Become the “Ultimate Pawn”.]

Yes, I know Buchou! Let’s go home together. Akeno-san, Kiba, Koneko-chan and Asia, and I are all waiting for your return. That’s why. I took out a small object from my pocket.

“To extinguish fire you need water, right!?”

The thing I was holding on to was a small bottle which contained holy water. This was the other thing I prepared before I came here. If the devils here in the hall saw this, then they would have just laughed with their nose. But Raiser’s face turned pale. Yes. What do I possess in my left arm? What ability does my left arm have? Answer me Raiser Phenex!

“Damn it!”

Riaser’s hand which was choking me became even stronger. Ku.... My throat was about to get crushed..... But before that! I opened the lid and sprinkled the holy water on Raiser. I was going to multiply the effect of the holy water! To the level that the high-class devils can’t ignore!

“Boosted Gear Gift!”

[Transfer!!]

The multiplied power flowed into the holy water on Raiser’s body from my gauntlet.

“Cra.....”

It was too late by the time Raiser noticed my attack. The transferred power multiplied the effects of the holy water on Raiser’s body.

BOIL!

The sound of the water vaporizing from fire echoed throughout the whole hall. Raiser’s fire wings started to look weird because he couldn’t maintain its form. The holy water burnt Raiser’s body insanely. There was smoke coming out of his whole body. I got out from his grip and took my distance while holding onto my throat. Man, he grabbed my throat really hard!

“Ugaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

Raiser started to writhe with the effects of the holy water.

“.....Is he going to die?”

[No. Even if the effects of the holy water has increased, it won’t be simple to kill someone from the Phenex clan.]

Is that right, Ddraig?

[But the effect of the holy water extinguishes a lot of stamina and the soul. Even if it’s a Phoenix who can come back to life from ashes, losing a great amount of stamina and soul will be..... They won’t be able to recover the soul immediately.]

SMOKE.....

The smoke that was coming out from Raiser’s body weakened. What was left was Raiser who had a worn out body and clothes. I picked the cross on the ground with my dragon arm. I held it tight and put my power in it. I also sprinkled the second holy water I had on hand.

“Asia told me this. That devils are weak against crosses and holy water. So increasing the ability of both of them at the same time would give enormous damage to devils, right?”

“Ku.....”

Raiser who was suffering from the effect of the holy water made a scared face after seeing my next move. I looked at Raiser and his surroundings. There was nothing except Raiser. Yeah, there was no problem.

“Kiba told me this. To widen my line of sight and look towards the enemy and its surroundings.”

I gathered all of the magical power in my body at one point. And then change that to a dragon's power and transfer it to the holy water and cross.

[Transfer!!]

With this, the holy attack gained incredible powers.

“Akeno-san told me this. To gather the magical power that flows throughout your whole body. To concentrate and feel the wave of the magical energy. Yeah, even a dumbass like me can do it, Akeno-san.”

I then changed my stance so I could hit my opponent.

“Koneko-chan told me this. When you hit someone, aim at the middle of the body and push it deep into their body accurately!”

They were all the things I learned from the training. Yeah everyone. I remembered them all. They all became useful. I’m going to take back Buchou with the power of everyone! When I aimed my fist at Raiser, he started to panic.

“W..wait! Do you even know!? That this engagement is important and necessary for the future of devils! It’s not something a devil brat like you can butt into!”

“I don’t know anything complicated. But I remember when I lost against you and became unconscious. Buchou was crying. She was crying! And she was also crying before! That is enough reason for me to beat the shit out of you!”

BANG!!

My fist which had the cross and the effects of the holy water went deeply and accurately into his stomach!

“Gahaa!”

Raiser took a few steps backwards while coughing blood.

“Me..... from something.....like this.....”

He said that and fell on the ground. He didn’t stand up again.

Part 4

I glanced at Raiser who didn't seem to show any movements and walked towards Buchou. There was someone who got in my way. It was Raiser's sister. She glared at me silently and seemed like she wanted to complain to me. I put my dragon arm forward and said it to her,

“If you have a complaint, then come to me. I will take you on anytime!”

Raiser's sister backed down because of my intensity and made a path for me. I went past Raiser's sister and stood in front of Buchou. I said to her while smiling,

“Buchou, let's go home.”

“.....Ise.”

I then looked at the person next to Buchou. It was a man with crimson hair. It was Buchou's father. I walked in front of him and bowed my head down. Then I said it clearly,

“I will take back Buchou, Rias Gremory. I'm very sorry for my actions. But I will be taking Buchou with me.”

Buchou's father didn't say anything and closed his eyes. Mao-sama who was supposed to be sitting next to him wasn't there and was gone. I wanted to thank him..... I will, the next time I see him.... I took Buchou's hand. I took out the magic circle that Grayfia-san gave me. I think she told me to use the magic circle on the other side after I retrieve Buchou..... When I turned the paper around, there was a shine.

FLASH!

What appeared from the magic circle was a four legged beast that I had never seen before. I couldn't tell if it was a lion or an eagle and it had wings.

“Griffon.....”

I heard someone in the hall saying that. Aaah, so this guy is called Griffon. So is Grayfia-san telling me to run by riding this?

ROAR

Griffon made a roar, then started to move towards the hole I made earlier. I said it to Kiba and the others before I left,

“I'll be waiting at the club room!”

With my words, everyone smiled at me and waved their hands. And the Griffon flew up to the sky of the underworld while carrying me and Buchou.

Father x father

“Lord Phenex. I’m very sorry that this engagement turned out like this. I know it’s rude but this engagement.....”

“You don’t have to say anymore, Lord Gremory. It was a good engagement for pure devils, but it looks like we both had too much greed. Both of us already have pure devil grandchildren. Even so we still craved it. Maybe it’s the greed we have since we are devils. Or is it because we saw hell in the last war.”

“.....No. I also forced my greed onto my daughter.”

“His name was Hyoudou-kun, correct? I wanted to thank him. What my son was lacking was in his defeat. He overestimated the ability of our clan. This will be a good lesson for my son. Phoenix is not absolute. Just learning that was enough for this engagement, Lord Gremory.”

“Lord Phenex.....”

“Your daughter has a good servant. Looks like the underworld won’t be bored in the future.”

“.....But to think that my daughter would pick it up.”

“Welsh Dragon. I couldn’t believe that that loathsome existence actually came to our side until I saw it.”

“Then the next will be.....”

“Yes, it must be. No, perhaps it already exists.”

“Vanishing Dragon. It’s a matter of time until the red meets the white.”

Last Kiss

Unlike the humans' world, the color of the underworld’s sky is purple. It looks weird, but it mysteriously gives me a sense of security.

TOUCH

Buchou’s hand touched my cheek while I was looking at the sky.

“You dummy.”

She said it with a bitter smile. Buchou seemed to have a relieved expression. It seemed like she was finally released from something painful.

“....!”

Buchou gasped when she looked at my left arm. She was touching my left arm with a sorrowful face. Well it couldn't be helped. My left arm became so abnormal, it was covered in red scales and had sharp claws coming out of it.

“Your arm..... You gave your arm as a price to borrow that power.....?”

“Yes. It was a good deal. Someone like me with no talent and who has nothing was able to get the ultimate power just with my left arm! Thanks to that I was able to defeat Raiser and get Buchou back!”

I put on a smiling face, but Buchou looked even sadder.

“You know that this left arm won't turn back to normal anymore, don't you?”

“Aaah, that's a problem. A cosplay item! Oh that won't work at school. Aaah, what should I do?”

“Asia will definitely cry if she finds this out.”

.....Uuuu, she would definitely cry. I had been making her cry a lot.....

“.....You may have broken this engagement. But a new engagement might be brought in, you know? If you keep on doing this.....”

I answered with a smile on my face to Buchou who had a sad expression.

“Then I will give my right arm as a price. Then my eyes. I will keep on saving Buchou. That's the only thing I can do. But I will definitely come and save you. That's because I am Rias Gremory's “Pawn”.”

.....! After I said that my lips were blocked. The thing that was blocking my lips was.....
Buchou put her hands around my neck and put her lips on top of mine. It wasn't something that happened just for a moment.

Kiss.



It wasn't a french kiss but I could feel her feelings from this soft kiss. The soft lips and the smell of her crimson hair froze my brain. After about a minute, Buchou's lips left mine. Then Buchou laughed.

Ki.....kisssss!!? I.....I kissed with Buchou! Kiss! Kissssss!! It felt like my brain burst open! Waah....Wo.....Woooooowwwwww!!

“My first kiss. It's something that Japanese girls treasure right?”

“Eh.....? Ye.....yes! Huh!? First kiss!?”

I was really surprised! I mean first kiss!? Isn't that an important thing to girls!?

“Ummmmm....are you sure!? That it was me?”

“You did something that's worth a kiss. It's a reward.”

She said it while smiling at me. Aaaaaaah, I feel as if something is going to happen to me! It was worth the effort just for this kiss!?

“Speaking of first kisses. Do you want my virginity that much?”

“I do! Aaaah!”

I answered her straight away. Man, I'm too honest with my greed..... But that was my true feeling. Of course I want it! I even said it in front of the whole crowd!

“.....You really are honest with these kinds of things.”

Buchou seemed troubled but was smiling. Aaaah, I'm sorry for being honest at these kinds of things. While I was apologizing in my heart, Buchou started to pat my cheek. Buchou just laughed happily. That's good. I was so glad that Buchou was smiling again.

New Life

“So, like how I just explained, I, Rias Gremory, will be living in this house. I might be inexperienced but please take care of me Otou-sama and Okaa-sama.”

At my house, in the living room. A crimson hair bishoujo next to me was greeting my parents. And there was another bishoujo with blond hair next to me with teary eyes. She seemed to be in a very bad mood. After that incident, Buchou said she would live with me. I couldn't understand what she meant, but she mostly forced herself to make this happen.

“I want to strengthen the relationship with my servant.”

That's what she said. But is it really alright if it's my house? The way high-class devils think may not be understood by me. And, like that, the engagement thing between the house of Gremory and the house of Phenex was canceled. Buchou was also happy. So that was good. Raiser went into a slump after experiencing his first defeat.

“Oh, what should I do? Asia-chan and Rias-san. I will have two daughters.”

My mum, after living with Asia, started to adore Asia like her own daughter. So she was okay with another girl coming in. My dad on the other hand was crying a lot.

“Yes, yes. It's a guy's dream. I mean to have a lot of girls! The dream I had when I was young. You may be able to make it come true!”

Oh, I see. I am this person's son after all. I couldn't believe that he also had the same dream as me. And what was important was my left arm. It is still an arm of a dragon. But thanks to Buchou and Akeno-san researching about dragons, it reverted back to a human's arm in everyday life. Apparently, by decreasing the magical power of the dragon, you can stop it from turning into a dragon's. I have to do something every few days to reduce my dragon's powers. If I don't, it will revert back to a dragon's arm. Well I was able to get Buchou back. So it was a cheap deal.

Though the way to reduce the dragon's power is a bit erotic. Gufufufu. Buchou and Akeno-san does that kind of thing for me..... In other words it was a good thing that my arm turned into this. Ddraig became silent after that. Even if I talk to him, he won't talk back. There are so many things I want to ask him..... The “White guy” Ddraig was talking about. Apparently that thing is coming for me. I don't know what that thing is, but first I need to do something about this situation.

“Now, Ise. We have your parents' permission. With this I am a member of this family. Can you take my luggage to my room right away?”

“Y....yes!”

“Ise-san, I will help as well.”

Asia followed behind me.

“.....Auuuuu. Looks like there’s only hope for polygamy..... But.... But..... It will be against the teachings of God..... But at this rate.....auuuuu.....”

“Huh? What about polygamy?”

“It’s nothing.”

When I asked her, she looked in the other direction. Ummmm, she seemed to be in a bad mood ever since Buchou came here..... Did Asia hate Buchou....?

“Ise. That goes here.”

She started to order me as soon as I put the luggage in her room.

“Yes!”

“Ise, I want to take a bath after this..... Yes. I will wash your back.”

“Are you serious!?”

Ooooooh! I wish she washes my back everyday!

“Geez! If you are having a bath together, then so will I! Ise-san and Buchou-san! Please don’t leave me out of this!”

Asia started to complain with teary eyes. You can’t Asia! You can’t compete with Buchou! It’s too stimulating for you!

“Asia. I’m sorry but this is how it is. Is it alright if this is a proclamation of war?”

“Uuuu, I don’t want to lose but it seems like I will lose!”

Somehow, I think there were sparks between the two..... Both Buchou and Asia..... I can’t understand how girls think! Is it even possible for me to have a harem at this rate? But there’s one thing I know. My everyday life was getting even livelier.

Afterword

How many times has the word “oppai (breast)” appeared in volume 1 and 2? People who count them and send the answer will get Rias’s oppai mousepad. Not. Yes, it’s a lie. There aren’t any prizes like that.

It has been a while. It’s Ishibumi. How was volume 2? It’s starting to turn into a porno book and even I can’t imagine how volume 3 will be like. By the way, the way to reduce the dragon's power is very erotic. So have lots of expectations in volume 3! Asia is going to turn into an erotic girl because of Buchou who is really erotic. I’m trying to aim to make a book which junior and high school students will be too embarrassed to buy! I’m getting worried that it might get an age restriction but I am aiming to make a shounen style light novel, so please support me! Sacred Gears, just like the evolution ability like “Boosted Gear Gift”, also has a super power form when you use it to the limit and master it called “Balance Breaker”. This is possible for all the Sacred Gears. Asia and Kiba are also able to do it if they master it. It’s similar to “Super Saiyan” and “Bankai”. Ise ignored the steps by using the power of the emperor of dragons and used it recklessly which resulted in a sacrifice. Because he’s inexperienced, he couldn’t release the power to its fullest. It’s called “Balance Breaker” because it’s possible to break the balance of the world. Ise became a person who is not only talented at attacking but also at supporting. Now when will the fateful meeting with the “White guy” be.....

Now for the thanks.

To my editor in charge who is trying to lead me into becoming a porno author, H-sama. Thanks for taking care of me all the time. Please eat your dinner every time I strip the characters. Miyama-zero-sama. Thanks for the beautiful and wonderful illustrations. I’m sorry for troubling you with the designs. I will be in your care from now on as well. Like that, this will continue in volume 3. Please have high hopes for Buchou’s breasts in volume 3 as well.

References and Translation Notes

1. BL: Short for Boys Love, another term for yaoi



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戦闘校舎のフェニックス

俺、イッセーこと兵藤一誠^{ひょうどういつせい}は下僕悪魔。今日も立派な悪魔となるべく早朝から特訓だ。だけど最近、俺の主であるリアス・グレモリー部長の様子がおかしいのがちょっと気になる。

そんな中、その部長の婚約者を名乗るライザー・フェニックスが現れた。貴族でイケメンで、おまけに下僕はすべて女の子だけのハーレム状態。クソーっ、うらやま——許せん！部長も奴との結婚を嫌がっているようで……。

よっしゃ、部長の結婚をかけたレイティングゲームの始まりだ！

「くたばれイケメンっ！ リアス部長の××は俺のものだー！」

ほんのう
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